



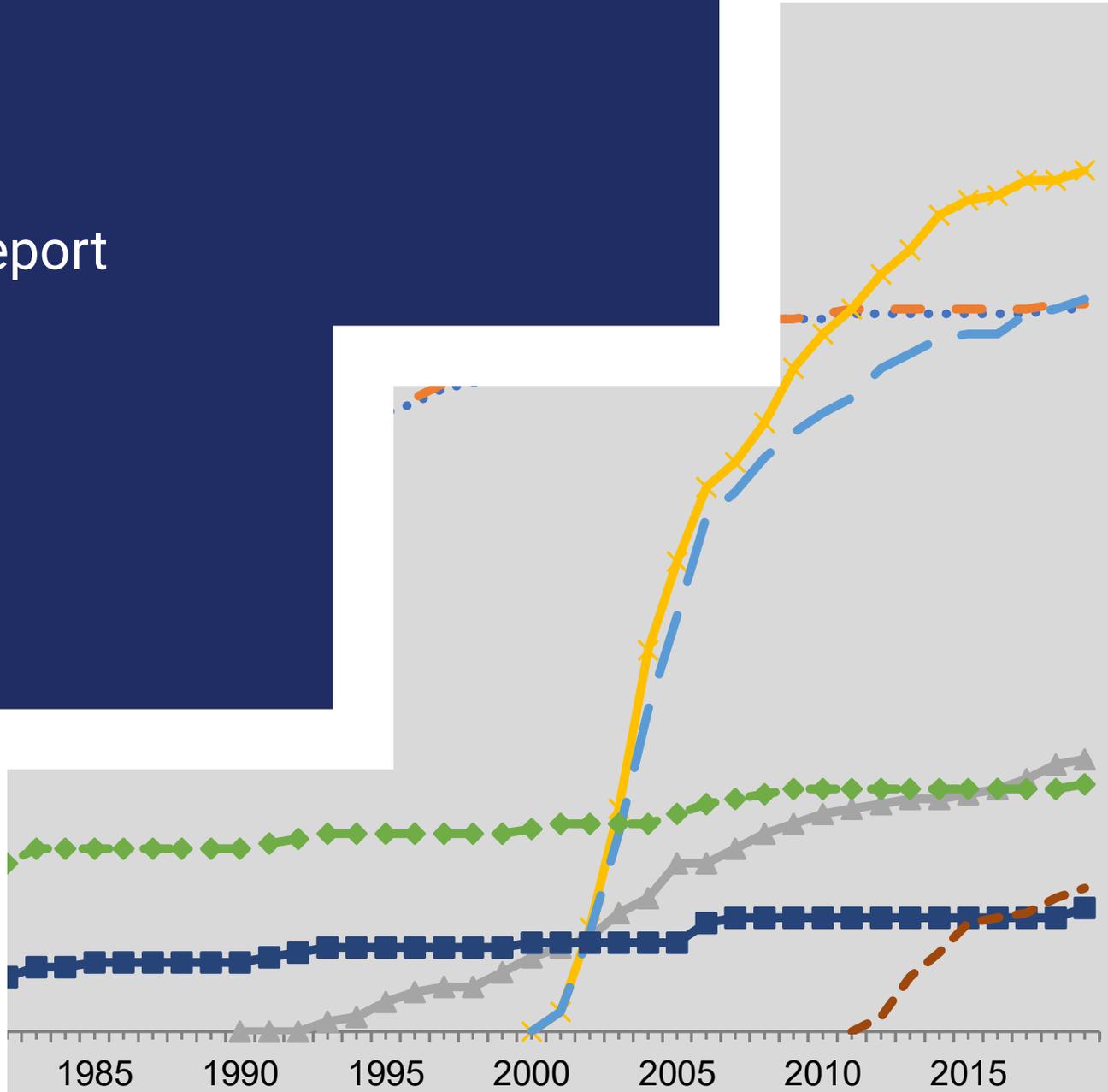
United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

International Migration

2019

Report



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Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Population Division

International Migration 2019

Report



United Nations

New York, 2019

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides the international community with timely and accessible population data and analysis of population trends and development outcomes for all countries and areas of the world. To this end, the Division undertakes regular studies of population size and characteristics and of all three components of population change (fertility, mortality and migration). Founded in 1946, the Population Division provides substantive support on population and development issues to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development. It also leads or participates in various interagency coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system. The work of the Division also contributes to strengthening the capacity of Member States to monitor population trends and to address current and emerging population issues.

Notes

The designations employed in this report and the material presented in it do not imply the expression of any opinions whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The term “country” as used in this report also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

This report is available in electronic format on the Division’s website at www.unpopulation.org. For further information about this report, please contact the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-1950, New York, 10017, USA; phone: +1 212-963-3209; email: population@un.org.

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PREFACE

In the area of international migration, the Population Division estimates the global number of international migrants at regular intervals, monitors levels, trends and policies of international migration, and collects and analyses information on the relationship between international migration and development. As part of these monitoring activities, the Migration and Urbanization Section within the Population Division maintains the United Nations Global Migration Database, which contains the most complete set of statistics on international migrants enumerated in countries or areas and classified by age, sex and country/area of birth or citizenship.

The Population Division participates on behalf of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration. It also services the intergovernmental process on international migration and development at the General Assembly and acts as the focal point within the United Nations Secretariat for the State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

This report presents information on levels and trends in international migration, including refugees and asylum seekers, for regions and countries of the world, the state of international migration policies of the Member States, and the ratification and adoption status of migration-related legal instruments and normative frameworks. The data for the international migrant stock are taken from the *International Migrant Stock 2019* (United Nations, 2019a). The data can be downloaded at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/index.shtml. The estimates on the total population are based on the *World Population Prospects 2019* (United Nations, 2019b). These data can be downloaded at <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>. The estimates on net migration and the projected population up to 2070 presented in chapter II are also based on *World Population Prospects 2019*. Chapter III showcases the current state of international migration policies of the Member States based on data collected through the international migration module (module III) of the United Nations Twelfth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development (<https://esa.un.org/PopPolicy/Inquiry.aspx>). Chapter IV provides an analysis of the status of ratification (by Member States) of the migration-related legal instruments of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization (ILO), based on information from the United Nations Treaty Section (<http://treaties.un.org>) and the NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards (<http://www.ilo.org>), as well as the status of the adoption of migration-related normative frameworks of the United Nations, namely the global compacts for safe, orderly and regular migration (<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1656414?ln=en>) and on refugees (<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1660291?ln=en>). For more information on the data and methodology used for calculating the various indicators used in this report, please see the above-mentioned publications.

The present report has been issued without formal editing. Responsibility for this report rests with the Population Division. More information on the activities of the Population Division in the area of international migration can be found at www.unmigration.org.

KEY FINDINGS

1. In 2019, the number of international migrants worldwide reached nearly 272 million, up from 153 million in 1990

Europe hosts the largest number of international migrants (82 million), followed by Northern America (59 million) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (49 million). The regional distribution of international migrants is changing, with migrant populations growing faster in Northern Africa and Western Asia and in sub-Saharan Africa than in other regions.¹

2. Forced displacements across international borders have continued to rise

The global number of refugees and asylum seekers has increased by about 13 million between 2010 and 2017,² accounting for close to a quarter of the increase in the number of all international migrants. Northern Africa and Western Asia host around 46 per cent of the global number of refugees and asylum seekers, followed by sub-Saharan Africa (close to 21%).

3. Most of the world's migrants live in a relatively small number of countries

In 2019, two thirds of all international migrants were living in just 20 countries. The largest number of international migrants (51 million) resided in the United States of America, equal to about 19 per cent of the world's total. Germany and Saudi Arabia hosted the second and third largest numbers of international migrants worldwide (around 13 million each), followed by the Russian Federation (12 million) and the United Kingdom (10 million).

4. One-third of all international migrants originated in only ten countries

In 2019, India was the leading country of origin of international migrants, with 17.5 million persons living abroad. Migrants from Mexico constituted the second largest “diaspora” (11.8 million), followed by China (10.7 million), the Russian Federation (10.5 million) and the Syrian Arab Republic (8.2 million).

5. Women and girls comprise slightly less than half (48 per cent) of all international migrants

Globally, the share of women and girls in the total number of international migrants fell slightly, from 49.3 per cent in 2000 to 47.9 per cent in 2019. The share of female migrants was highest in Northern America (51.8%) and Europe (51.4%), and lowest in sub-Saharan Africa (47.5%), and Northern Africa and Western Asia (35.5%).

6. Although migration in today's world is having a significant impact on population size in regions of destination, its impact is much less significant in regions of origin

Projection scenarios show that the size of the population of Northern America would be almost 21 per cent smaller by 2070 with zero net migration, whereas Oceania would be 17 per cent smaller, and Europe about 9 per cent smaller. By contrast, the population in regions of origin would be only between 0.1 and just over 3 per cent larger by 2070 under the zero-net-migration scenario.

¹ Countries or areas are grouped into geographic regions based on the classification being used to track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (see: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/>). The region Europe and Northern America has been further divided into Europe and Northern America.

² The latest data on refugees and asylum seekers available when preparing the 2019 revision of the estimates of the international migrant stock refer to 2017.

7. Few Governments are seeking to lower the number of immigrants arriving through regular, or legal, channels

In 2019, most of the 111 countries for which data were available reported either having policies to raise levels of immigration through regular channels (37%) or policies to maintain current levels (26%). Only three per cent of Governments had policies to lower the current level of regular immigration.

8. Promoting orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration is a priority for most Governments

Globally, 84 per cent of Governments reported having provisions for the arrival of unaccompanied or separated minors; 80 per cent reported having information and awareness-raising campaigns for prospective migrants; 76 per cent had pre-arrival authorization controls for those seeking to immigrate; and 75 per cent indicated having a system to monitor international migrants who overstayed their visas.

9. Legal instruments related to international migration have been ratified in varying degrees by Member States of the United Nations

By October 2019, instruments designed to protect refugees or to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking had been ratified by more than three quarters of all Member States, whereas instruments protecting the rights of migrant workers had been ratified by fewer than 30 per cent.

10. In December 2018, two global compacts, one concerning international migration and one on refugees, were endorsed by a large majority of the United Nations Member States

Countries that voted in favour of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration collectively hosted around 181 million international migrants in 2019, representing 67 per cent of the total worldwide. Meanwhile, countries that voted in favour of the Global Compact on Refugees hosted around 25 million refugees, or 89 per cent of the global refugee population.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The following symbols have been used in the tables throughout this report:

A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease or negative number.

A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.

Years given refer to 1 July.

Use of a hyphen (-) between years, for example, 1995-2000, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the first year to 1 July of the second year.

An em dash (—) indicates that the magnitude is not zero, but less than half of the unit employed (i.e. is rounded to 0, when in fact it is not 0)

A 0 or 0.0 indicates that the magnitude is zero

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not reported separately

Numbers and percentages in this table do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

References to region, development group, country or area:

The designations employed in this publication and the material presented in it do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The term “country” as used in this publication also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

In this table, data for countries or areas have been aggregated in six continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America, and Oceania. Further information on continental regions is available from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>. Countries or areas are also grouped into geographic regions based on the classification being used to track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (see: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/>).

The designation of “more developed” and “less developed” regions is intended for statistical purposes and does not express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. More developed regions comprise all regions of Europe plus Northern America, Australia and New Zealand and Japan. Less developed regions comprise all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), and Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand).

The group of least developed countries includes 47 countries located in sub-Saharan Africa (32), Northern Africa and Western Asia (2), Central and Southern Asia (4), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (4), Latin America and the Caribbean (1), and Oceania (4). Further information is available at <http://unohrlls.org/about-ldcs/>.

The group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) includes 32 countries or territories located in sub-Saharan Africa (16), Northern Africa and Western Asia (2), Central and Southern Asia (8), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (2), Latin America and the Caribbean (2), and Europe and Northern America (2). Further information is available at <http://unohrlls.org/about-lldc/>.

The group of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) includes 58 countries or territories located in the Caribbean (29), the Pacific (20), and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) (9). Further information is available at <http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/>.

The classification of countries or areas by income level is based on the gross national income (GNI) per capita as reported by the World Bank (June 2018). These income groups are not available for all countries or areas.

List of abbreviations

AIMS	Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GNI	Gross national income
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LLDCs	Landlocked Developing Countries
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

INTRODUCTION

Migration has major impacts on both the people and the places involved. When supported by appropriate policies, migration can contribute to inclusive and sustainable development in both origin and destination countries, while also benefitting migrants and their families. The crucial linkages between migration and development, including the opportunities and challenges that migration brings, are well established and acknowledged in a series of landmark agreements adopted by the United Nations Member States, including the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development held in 1994, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants from 2016, and most recently, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which was endorsed by the UN General Assembly in December 2018.

Reliable data on migrants and migration are crucial for assessing current and future trends, identifying policy priorities, and making informed decisions. Reliable data on migration can help ensure that discussions on migration, at both national and international levels, are based on facts, not myths or misperceptions. Accurate, consistent and timely data on international migration are also essential for Member States to monitor progress in the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the sustainable development goals and the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (the “Global Compact for Migration”). The Global Compact was the first negotiated global agreement covering all dimensions of migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner, where Governments placed a strong emphasis on data by including “Collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated [migration] data as a basis for evidence-based policies” as the first of its 23 objectives.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides the international community with regular and timely data on the numbers of international migrants, estimates of net migration and Government policies on international migration for all countries of the world. One of the major publications of the Division is the biennial international migration report. The *International Migration 2019: Report* analyses global and regional levels and trends in international migration, based on the latest estimates of international migrant stock, and investigates the contribution of migration to demographic change. The *Report* also discusses international migration policies and provides an overview of normative and legal frameworks on international migration and refugees. The *Report* is organized in four main areas, covering the following topics:

The first chapter examines the levels and trends in numbers of international migrants classified by age, sex, and countries of origin and destination, using information from the 2019 revision of the International Migrant Stock. This chapter provides information for all 232 countries and areas of the world, spanning the period from 1990 to 2019. The chapter compares data by development and income groups and by regions, as well as at the country level, presenting data both from the perspective of countries of destination (where migrants live) and countries of origin (where migrants come from). This chapter also examines the age and sex distributions of international migrants.

The second chapter presents global and regional estimates and projections of net migration and total population based on the latest information available from the 2019 revision of the World Population Prospects. This chapter covers the period from 1950 to 2070, examining the contribution of migration to total population change and its effect on the age structure of the population.

The third chapter discusses international migration policies, using data from the 2019 revision of the World Population Policies Database. Government views and policies related to immigration, emigration, migrant integration and diaspora investments are presented. This chapter also presents an analysis of SDG indicator 10.7.2,

“the number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people”, using information from the United Nations Twelfth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development.

The final, fourth chapter provides an overview of the international normative and legal frameworks on international migration, with a particular focus on legal instruments to safeguard the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers, and to ensure the protection of refugees, as well as instruments designed to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Information about the status of ratification of instruments related to international migration is obtained from the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and the NORMLEX system of the International Labour Organization. This chapter also provides an overview of the adoption and endorsement by the General Assembly of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

I. LEVELS AND TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK

A. MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS BY DEVELOPMENT AND INCOME GROUPS

The number of international migrants worldwide reached an estimated 272 million in 2019 (table I.1). Nearly 56 per cent of them lived in countries in more developed regions, while countries in less developed regions hosted 44 per cent. As many as 65 per cent of all international migrants resided in high-income countries, 30 per cent lived in middle-income countries, and 5 per cent settled in low-income countries.

Box I.1. Who is an international migrant?

For the purpose of estimating the international migrant stock, international migrants are defined as persons who are either living in a country other than their country of birth or in a country other than their country of citizenship. When data on place of birth are available, they are generally given precedence.

Of the 232 countries or areas in International Migrant Stock 2019, data on the foreign-born were available for 184, or 79 per cent. Data on foreign citizens were used for 45 countries or areas, or 19 per cent. For six countries or areas, estimates were imputed based on regional levels and trends.

In the period between 1990 and 2019, the number of international migrants worldwide grew by around 119 million. This growth had accelerated since 2005. While the number of international migrants increased by around 39 million, between 1990 and 2005, from 153 million to 192 million, it increased by around 80 million between 2005 and 2019. This corresponds to an average annual rate of change of 1.5 per cent between 1990 and 2005, compared to 2.5 per cent between 2005 to 2019.

Between 1990 and 2019, the more developed regions gained 69 million international migrants, whereas the less developed regions added 50 million (figure I.1). Most of the increase in the number of international migrants occurred in high-income countries (98 million), whereas the middle-income and low-income countries only added about 20 million to their migrant stock (17 million and 3 million, respectively).

The average annual rate of change in the international migrant stock varied across development and income groups. While the average annual rate of change decreased from 2.3 per cent between 1990 and 2005 to 1.9 per cent between 2005 and 2019 in

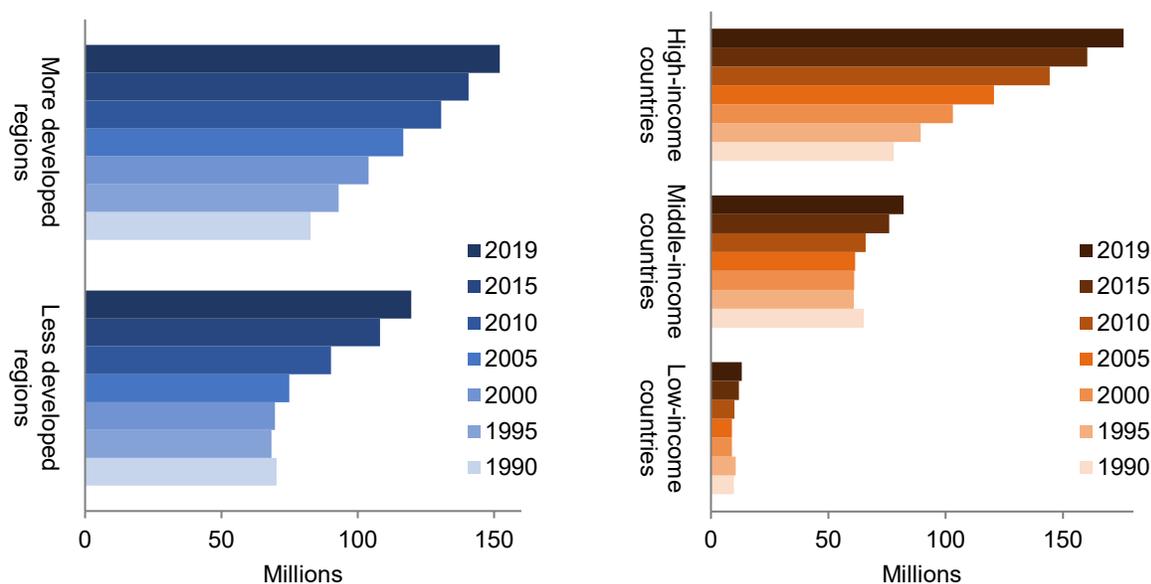
the more developed regions, it increased from 0.4 per cent to 3.3 per cent during the same time periods in the less developed regions. Likewise, the average annual rate of change decreased from 2.9 per cent between 1990 and 2005 to 2.7 per cent between 2005 and 2019 in high-income countries. During the same time periods, the rate of change increased from -0.4 per cent to 2.1 per cent in middle-income countries and from -0.6 per cent to 2.7 per cent in low-income countries.

TABLE I.1. NUMBER, ANNUAL RATE OF CHANGE, AND SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INCOME GROUP, AND REGION, 1990-2019

	<i>International migrant stock (millions)</i>				<i>Average annual rate of change in migrant stock (per cent)</i>			<i>International migrants as a share of total population (per cent)</i>	
	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>1990- 2005</i>	<i>2005- 2019</i>	<i>2000- 2019</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2019</i>
World	153.0	173.6	220.8	271.6	1.5	2.5	2.4	2.9	3.5
<i>UN development groups</i>									
More developed regions	82.8	104.0	130.6	152.1	2.3	1.9	2.0	7.2	12.0
Less developed regions	70.2	69.6	90.2	119.6	0.4	3.3	2.8	1.7	1.9
<i>World Bank income groups</i>									
High-income countries	77.8	103.0	144.3	175.8	2.9	2.7	2.8	7.5	14.0
Middle-income countries	65.0	61.0	65.9	82.1	-0.4	2.1	1.6	1.7	1.4
Low-income countries	9.8	9.0	10.0	13.1	-0.6	2.7	2.0	2.8	1.7
<i>Regions</i>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	13.3	13.2	15.9	23.6	0.5	3.6	3.1	2.7	2.2
Northern Africa and Western Asia	17.6	20.3	32.6	48.6	1.9	5.3	4.6	6.1	9.4
Central and Southern Asia	26.2	20.5	19.6	19.6	-2.1	0.2	-0.2	2.1	1.0
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	6.8	10.5	15.7	18.3	4.3	2.5	2.9	0.4	0.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	7.2	6.6	8.3	11.7	0.1	3.4	3.0	1.6	1.8
Oceania	4.7	5.4	7.1	8.9	1.6	2.8	2.7	17.3	21.2
Europe	49.6	56.9	70.7	82.3	1.7	1.8	1.9	6.9	11.0
Northern America	27.6	40.4	51.0	58.6	3.3	1.8	2.0	9.9	16.0

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

Figure I.1. Number of international migrants by development and income group, 1990-2019 (millions)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

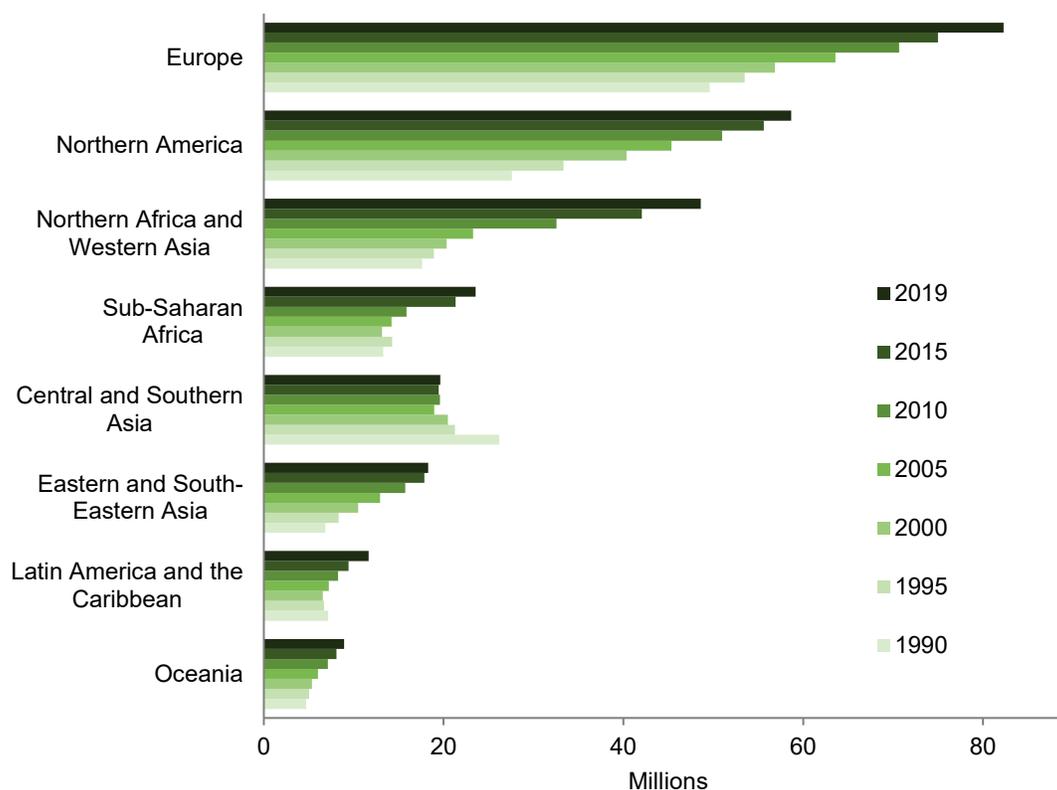
International migrants accounted for a relatively small share of the world’s total population, 3.5 per cent in 2019. This share has increased from 2.9 per cent in 1990. International migrants constituted 12.0 per cent of the total population in the more developed regions in 2019, compared to 1.9 per cent of the total population in less developed regions. In high-income countries, international migrants constituted 14.0 per cent of the total population. This figure was significantly lower in middle-income and low-income countries where international migrants accounted for 1.4 per cent and 1.7 per cent of the total population, respectively. Between 1990 and 2019, the number of international migrants as a share of the total population increased in more developed regions and high-income countries but changed very little in less developed regions and declined in lower income countries.

B. MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS BY REGION

In 2019, more than half of all international migrants worldwide lived in Europe and Northern America, with roughly 82 million residing in Europe and nearly 59 million in Northern America (table I.1). Northern Africa and Western Asia hosted the third largest number of international migrants (49 million), followed by sub-Saharan Africa (24 million), Central and Southern Asia (20 million), and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (18 million). Latin America and the Caribbean (12 million), and Oceania (9 million) recorded the lowest numbers of international migrants.

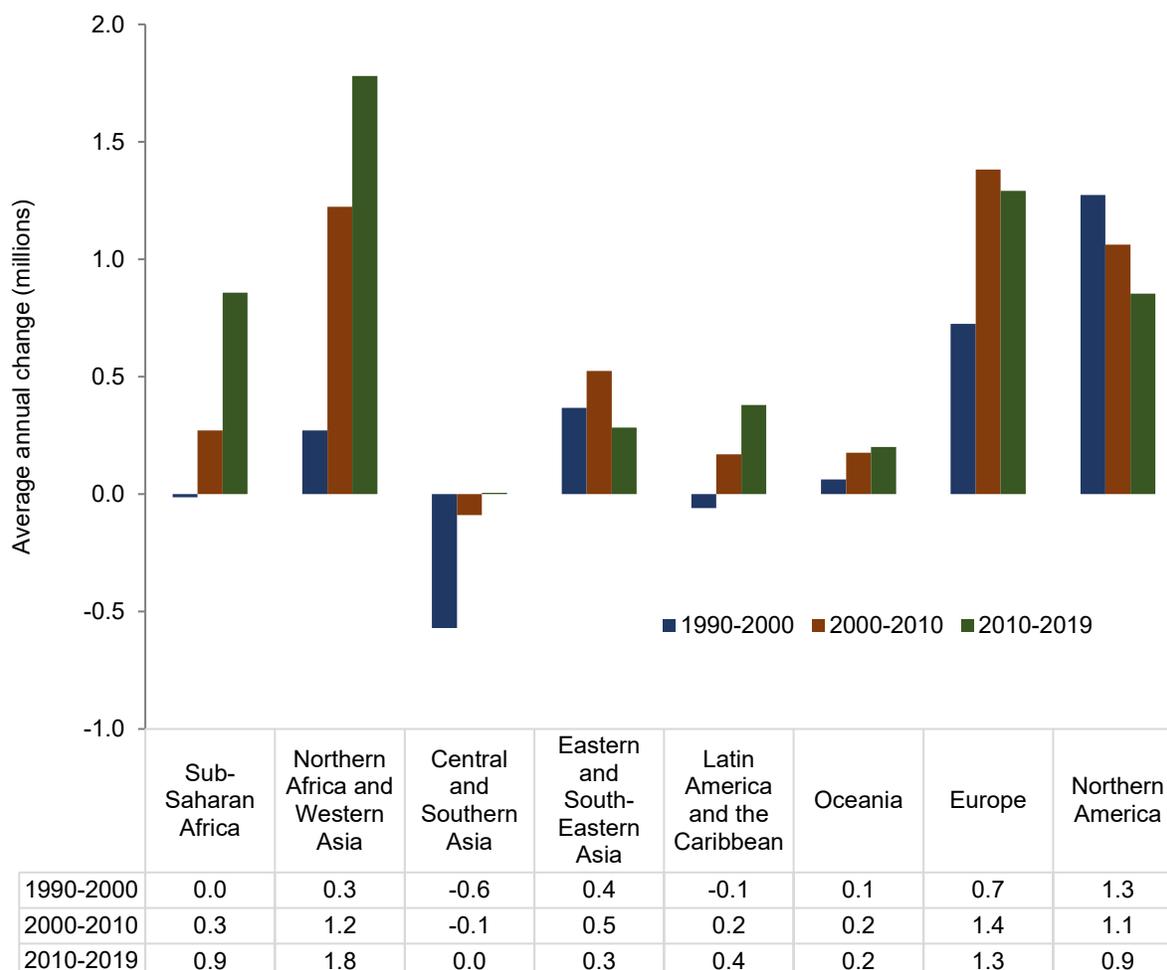
Between 1990 and 2019, the international migrant stock increased by approximately 30 million each in Europe, Northern America, and Northern Africa and Western Asia (figure I.2). However, the latter region experienced the largest relative gain in the number of international migrants, with an average annual rate of change of 4.6 per cent between 1990 and 2019. In Europe and Northern America, the migrant stock grew at an average annual rate of around 2 per cent. Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa each added approximately 10 million international migrants, while Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania added more than 4 million each. For these four regions the average annual rate of change in the migrant stock was close to 3 per cent. By contrast, the number of international migrants decreased by around 7 million in Central and Southern Asia between 1990 and 2019, which corresponds to an average annual rate of change of -0.2 per cent.

Figure I.2. Number of international migrants by region of destination, 1990-2019 (millions)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

Figure I.3. Average annual change in the number of international migrants by region of destination, 1990-2019 (millions)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

The average annual change in the number of international migrants varied across regions and over time (figure I.3). The migrant population increased by more than 1 million per annum in Northern Africa and Western Asia, and in Europe during the periods 2000-2010 and 2010-2019. Northern America added on average more than 1 million international migrants per year during 1990-2000 and 2000-2010. Overall, Northern Africa and Western Asia experienced the fastest growth in the migrant population across regions and time periods, with an increase of 1.8 million per year during the period between 2010 and 2019. By contrast, the international migrant stock decreased in Central and Southern Asia by around 0.6 million per annum between 1990 and 2000.

In 2019, the five largest regional migration corridors accounted for almost half of the global international migrant stock, or 124 million international migrants (table I.2). Europe-to-Europe constituted the largest regional migration corridor in the world, with 41.9 million international migrants born in Europe and residing in another country in the same region, of which a considerable proportion were between countries of the European Union. From 2000 to 2010 and from 2010 to 2019, the Europe-to-Europe regional migration corridor increased by more than 5 million international migrants, an average annual increase of more than half a million (figure I.4).

The corridor from Latin America and the Caribbean to Northern America was the second largest migration corridor in 2019, with a stock of 26.6 million international migrants. While this regional migration corridor grew by 0.9 million migrants per annum between 1990 and 2000, the growth decelerated in the more recent period. Between 2000 and 2010 and between 2010 and 2019, the number of international migrants in this corridor increased by an average of 0.5 and 0.3 million per year, respectively.

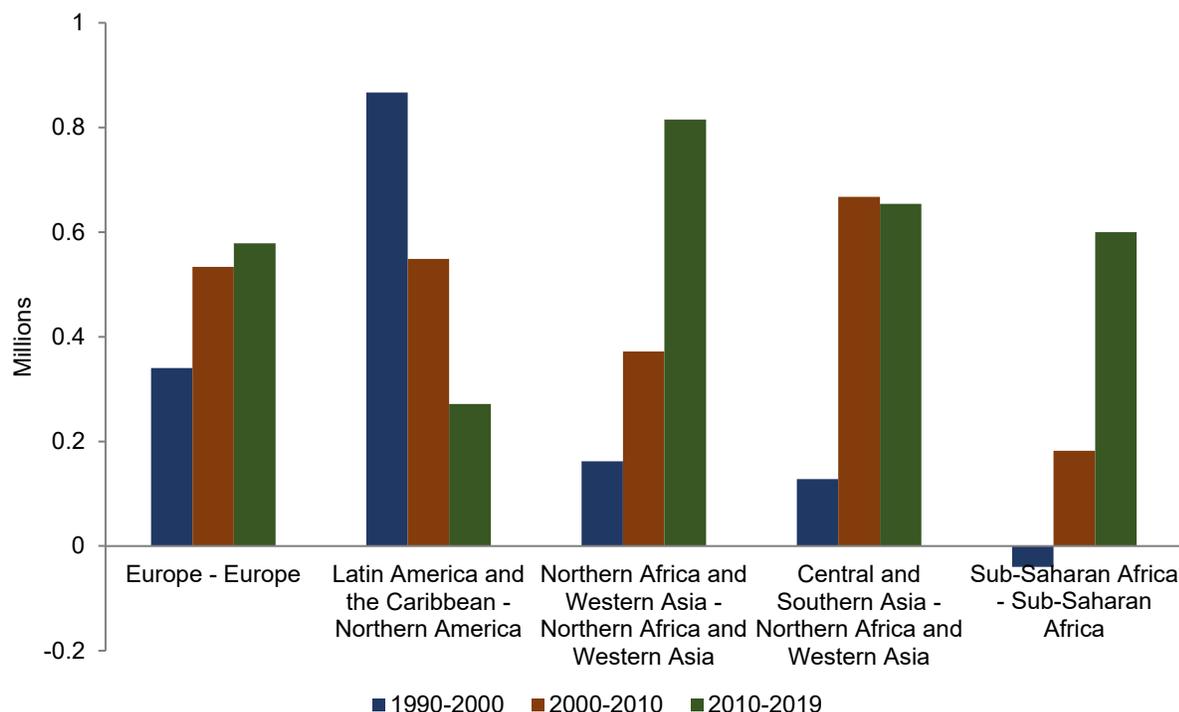
The third, fourth, and fifth largest regional migration corridors were almost equal in size in 2019, with around 18 to 19 million international migrants for each of these corridors. The number of international migrants within Northern Africa and Western Asia increased by 7.3 million between 2010 and 2019, while the corridor from Central and Southern Asia to Northern Africa and Western Asia grew by 5.4 million. The number of sub-Saharan African migrants residing in sub-Saharan Africa changed only slightly between 1990 and 2010 but then increased by 5.4 million between 2010 and 2019.

TABLE I.2. NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS BY REGION OF DESTINATION AND ORIGIN, 2019 (MILLIONS)

Destination	Origin									
	Sub-Saharan Africa	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Central and Southern Asia	Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	Latin America and the Caribbean	Oceania	Europe	Northern America	Unknown	World
Sub-Saharan Africa	18.31	1.21	0.14	0.09	0.04	0.02	0.76	0.04	2.97	23.57
Northern Africa and Western Asia	2.07	18.93	18.52	4.27	0.07	0.01	2.58	0.17	1.98	48.59
Central and Southern Asia	0.00	0.33	11.69	1.97	0.02	0.00	4.49	0.05	1.08	19.63
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	0.01	0.03	1.90	14.32	0.34	0.08	0.21	0.31	1.08	18.30
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.03	0.10	0.03	0.29	8.24	0.01	1.42	1.24	0.31	11.67
Oceania	0.48	0.43	1.16	2.30	0.20	1.06	2.89	0.23	0.16	8.93
Europe	4.94	13.05	11.20	3.60	4.98	0.40	41.86	1.10	1.18	82.30
Northern America	2.50	2.79	5.16	10.24	26.58	0.52	6.89	1.37	2.60	58.65
World	28.35	36.87	49.78	37.08	40.46	2.11	61.10	4.53	11.36	271.6

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

Figure I.4. Average annual change in the number of international migrants along the five largest regional migration corridors, 1990-2019 (millions)

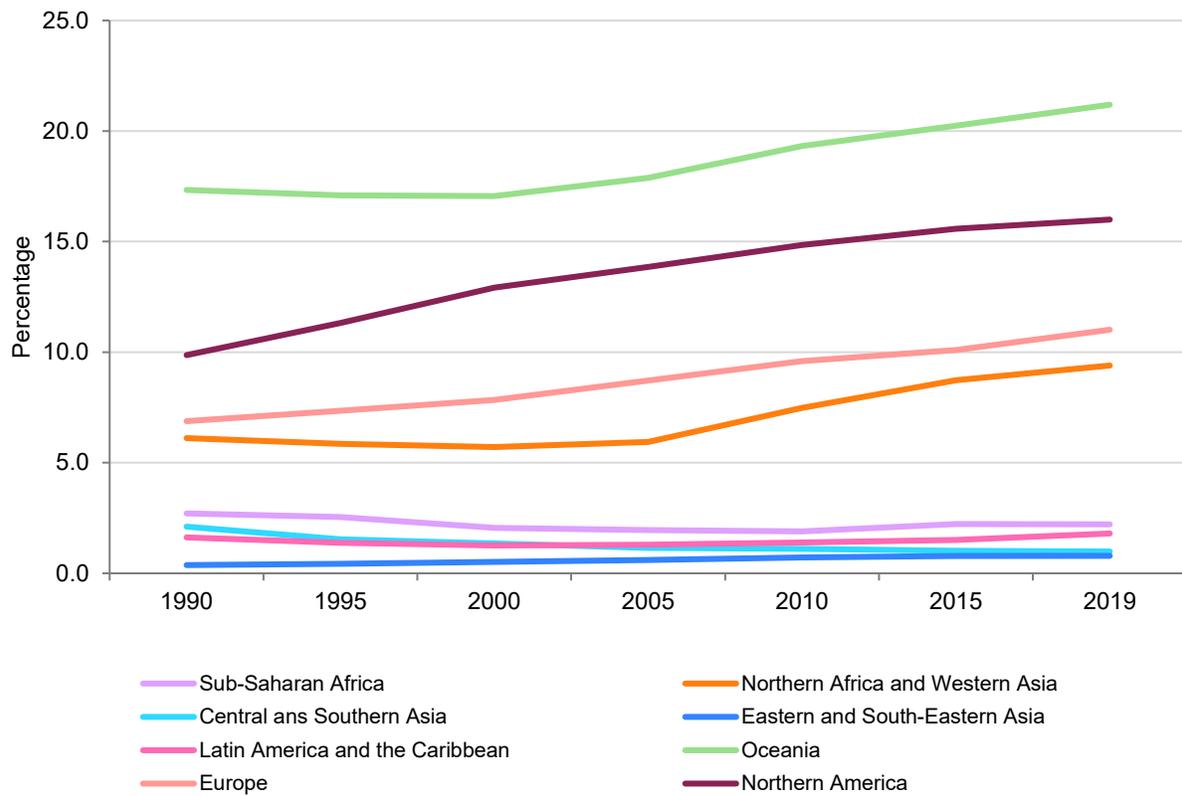


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

Among all regions, international migrants accounted for the largest share of the total population in Oceania, Northern America, and Europe (figure I.5). In 2019, 21.2 per cent of the total population in Oceania were migrants. In Northern America and Europe migrants constituted 16.0 per cent and 11.0 per cent of the total population, respectively. The migrant share in Northern Africa and Western Asia was 9.4 per cent. In the four remaining regions, migrants accounted for around 1 or 2 per cent of the total population.

Between 1990 and 2019, the share of international migrants in the total population increased by more than six percentage points in Northern America, by around four percentage points in Europe and Oceania, and by more than three percentage points in Northern Africa and Western Asia. In Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and in Latin America and the Caribbean the share increased by 0.4 and 0.2 percentage points, respectively. In those six regions the number of international migrants grew faster than the overall population. By contrast, the share of international migrants in the total population decreased by 0.5 percentage points in sub-Saharan Africa, and 1.1 percentage points in Central and Southern Asia, implying that the overall population increased more rapidly than the migrant population in those regions.

Figure I.5. Migrants as a share of total population by region of destination, 1990-2019 (percentage)



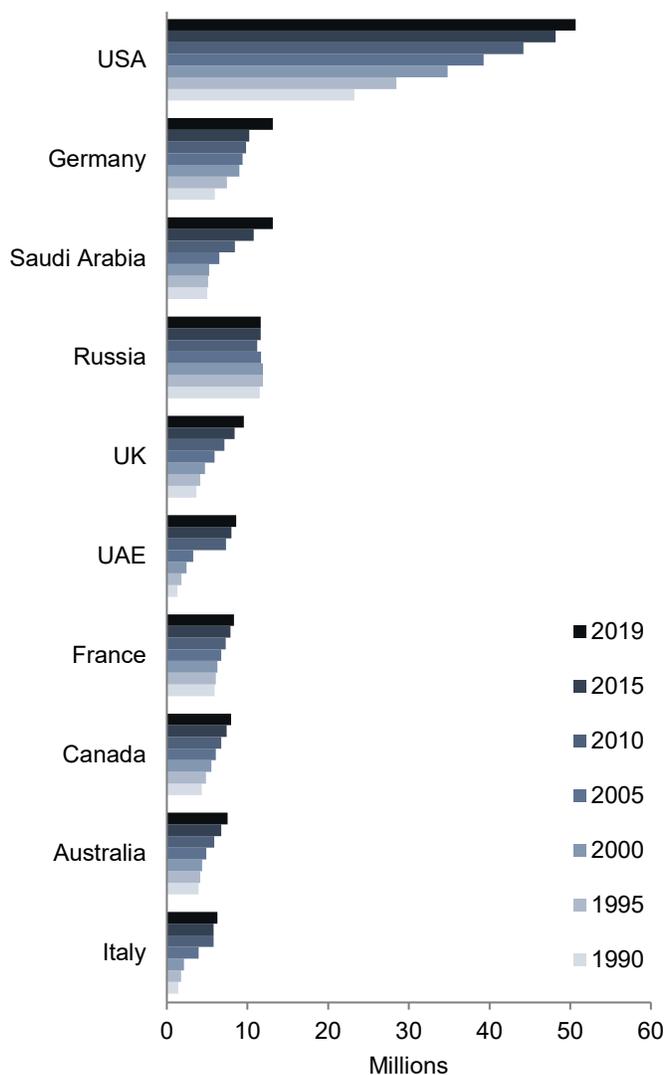
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

C. MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS AT COUNTRY LEVEL

While international migration is a global phenomenon, most movements involve a limited number of countries. In 2019, just 20 countries hosted two thirds of all international migrants and about half of all international migrants were living in just ten countries. The largest number of migrants resided in the United States of America, which hosted 51 million migrants in 2019, or around 19 per cent of the world’s total (figure I.6). The second and third largest countries of destination were Germany and Saudi Arabia, hosting around 13 million migrants each, followed

by the Russian Federation (12 million), and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (10 million). Of the 20 main destination countries of international migrants worldwide, seven were in Europe, four in Northern Africa and Western Asia, three in Central and Southern Asia, two each in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and in Northern America, and one each in Oceania and sub-Saharan Africa.

Figure I.6. Countries hosting the largest number of international migrants, 1990-2019 (millions)



Between 1990 and 2019, the number of international migrants increased in 169 countries or areas, while it decreased in 60. The United States of America recorded the largest absolute increase of the international migrant stock, adding 27.4 million international migrants between 1990 and 2019. Saudi Arabia experienced the second largest gain (8.1 million), followed by the United Arab Emirates (7.3 million), Germany (7.2 million), and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (5.9 million). By contrast, the international migrant stock decreased in Pakistan by around 3.0 million between 1990 and 2019.

Bilateral migration corridors shifted significantly from 1990 to 2019 (figure I.7). During the period between 1990 and 2000, the ten bilateral migration corridors with the largest increase accounted for almost half of the increase in the global international migrant stock. The bilateral migration corridor with the largest average annual increase included migrants originating from Mexico and living in the United States of America. This corridor grew by more than 500,000 per annum. Moreover, the United States of America was the destination of four of the ten bilateral migration corridors with the largest average annual increase, while Germany was the destination of two corridors. Three of the ten bilateral migration corridors with the largest increase were within the Eastern and South-Eastern Asia region.

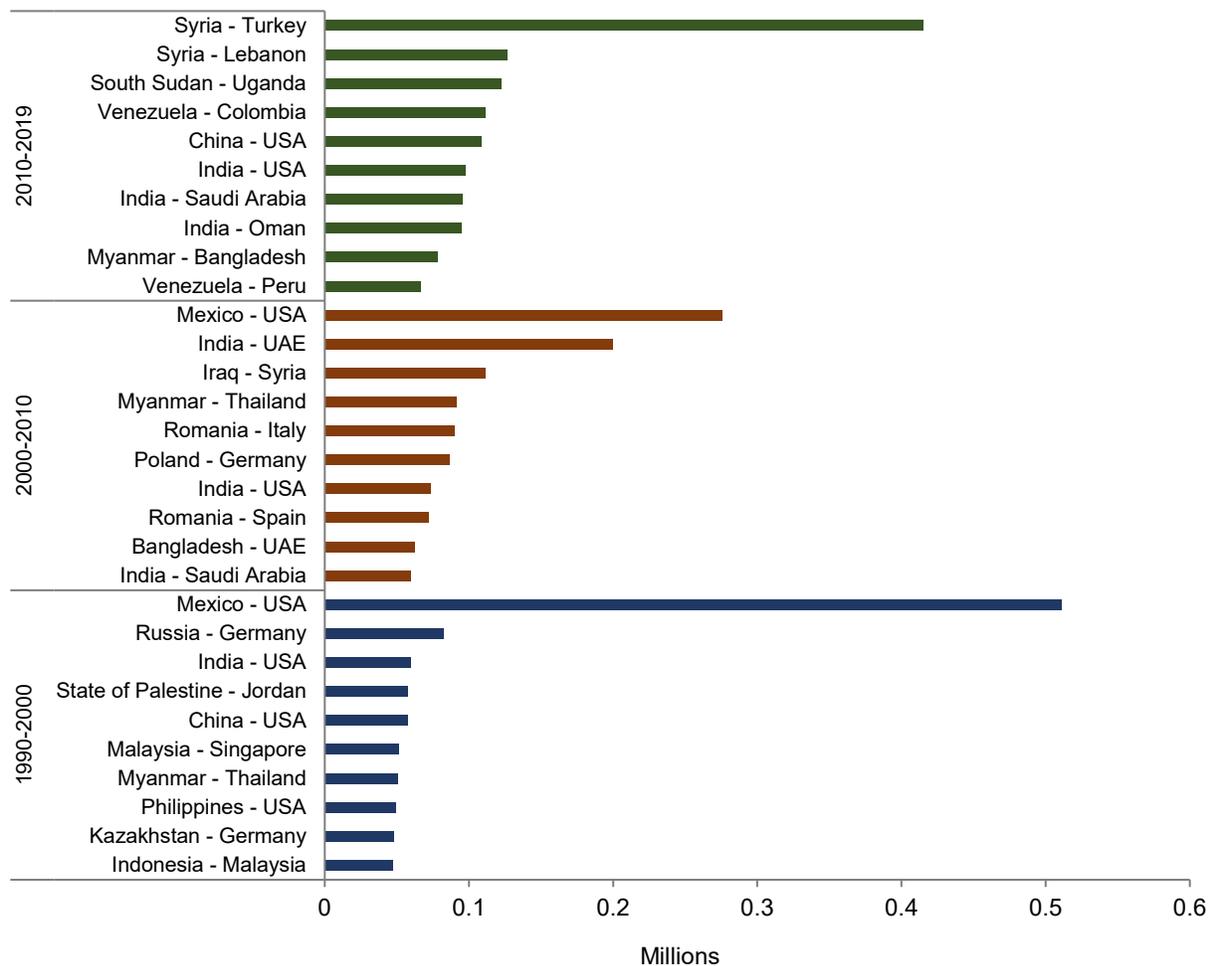
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019).

Note: USA refers to the United States of America, Russia refers to the Russian Federation, UK refers to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and UAE refers to the United Arab Emirates.

Between 2000 and 2010, Mexico-USA continued to be the corridor with the largest increase, but the gain was significantly smaller than in the preceding decade. Some countries in Southern Europe, namely Italy and Spain, became major destinations of international migrants originating from countries in Eastern Europe, in particular Romania. During this period, three of the ten bilateral migration corridors with the largest increase involved oil-producing countries in Western Asia as the destination, while India was the origin for three of the ten bilateral migration corridors.

During the period from 2010 to 2019, several of the ten bilateral migration corridors with the largest increase consisted of refugee movements, reflecting crises, conflicts or instability in Myanmar, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela. The United States of America was the destination of two of the ten bilateral migration corridors with the largest increase, while India was the origin of three of the ten bilateral migration corridors during this period.

Figure I.7. Ten bilateral migration corridors with the largest average annual increase in the number of international migrants, 1990-2017 (millions)

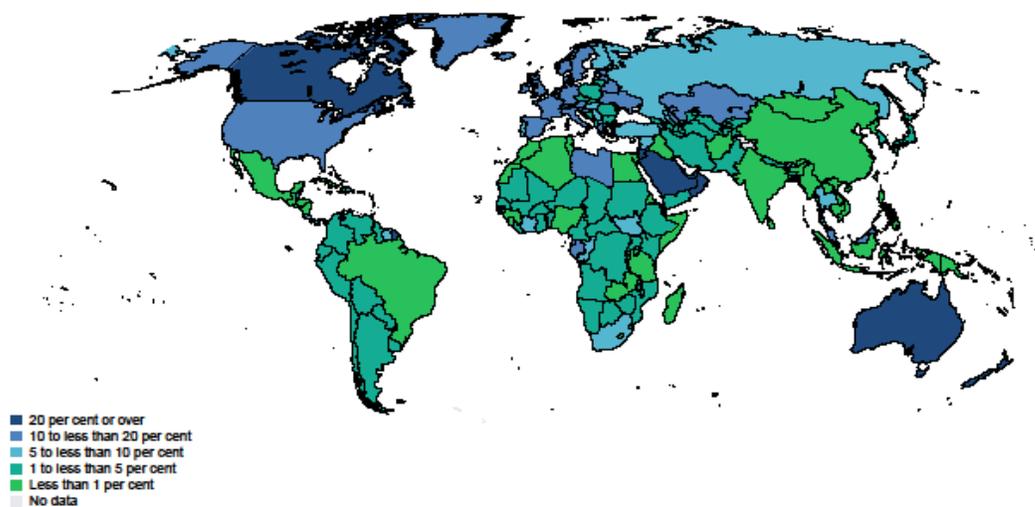


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

Note: Syria refers to the Syrian Arab Republic, USA refers to the United States of America, UAE refers to the United Arab Emirates, and Russia refers to the Russian Federation.

In 2019, international migrants accounted for more than 20 per cent of the total population in 48 countries or areas (map I.1). This group mostly comprised countries with a very small total population, some countries in Western Asia, as well as Australia, Canada and Switzerland. International migrants accounted for more than 10 per cent of the population in 94 countries or areas, including many high-income countries. In 119 countries or areas, international migrants accounted for more than 5 per cent of the total population in 2019, while they accounted for less than 1 per cent of the total population in 39 countries or areas. The latter group of countries included many less developed countries or countries with a large total population, such as China, India, Indonesia, and Brazil.

Map I.1. International migrants as a percentage of total population, 2019



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

Note: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

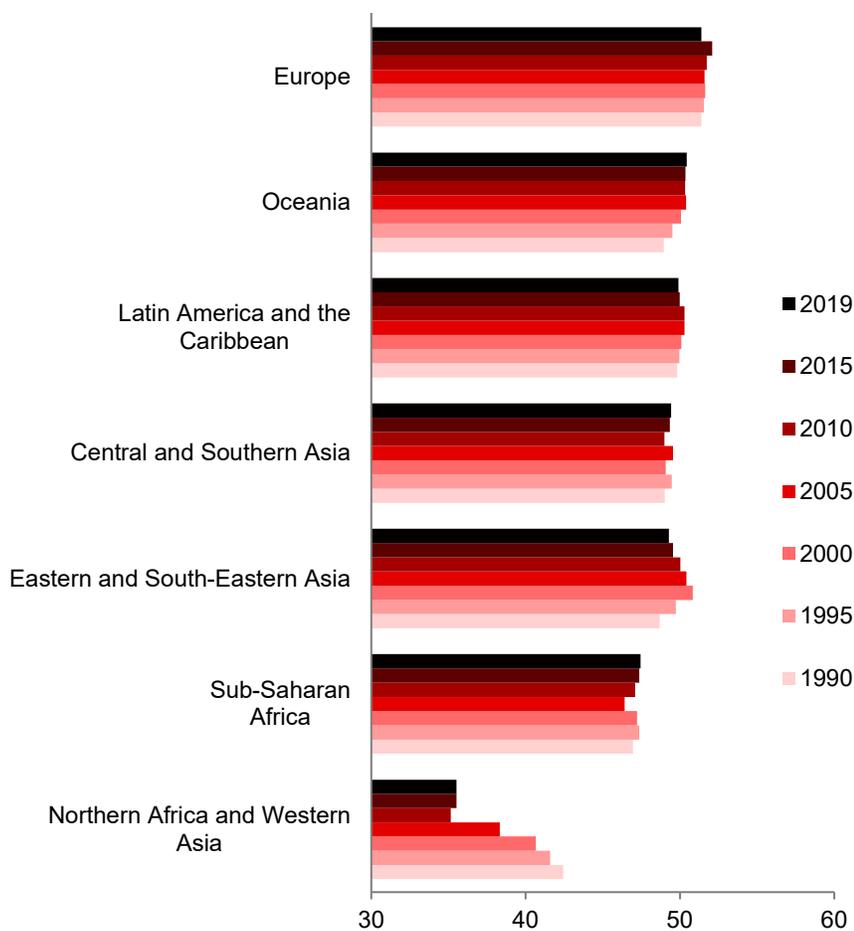
One third of all international migrants in 2019 originated in only ten countries. With 17.5 million persons living abroad in 2019, India was the leading country of origin of international migrants. The second largest country of origin was Mexico (11.8 million), followed by China (10.7 million), the Russian Federation (10.5 million) and the Syrian Arab Republic (8.2 million).

D. MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS: GENDER AND AGE DIMENSIONS

In 2019, women made up 47.9 per cent of all international migrants worldwide. While female migrants outnumbered male migrants in more developed regions, women accounted for less than half of the migrant population in less developed regions. In 2019, women constituted 51.5 per cent of all migrants in more developed regions, a number that had barely changed since 1990. In less developed regions, however, the percentage of women among all migrants declined from 47.0 in 1990 to 43.4 in 2019. Female migrants accounted for 47.6 per cent of all international migrants in high-income countries, 48.2 per cent in middle-income countries, and 50.9 per cent in low-income countries in 2019.

The decline in the share of female migrants in less developed regions was driven by a rapid increase in the number of male migrants in Northern Africa and Western Asia between 2000 and 2010 (figure I.8). During this period, the gain in the number of male migrants was three times larger than the gain in the number of female migrants in that region. The increase in the number of male migrants in Northern Africa and Western Asia was fueled by the strong demand for migrant workers in several oil-producing countries.

Figure I.8. Percentage of women among all international migrants by region of destination, 1990-2019



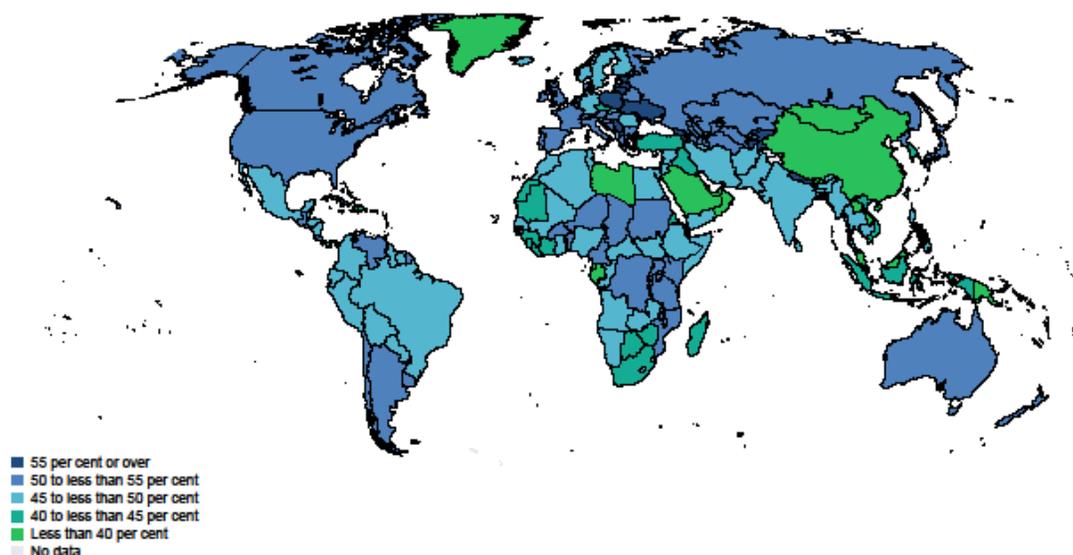
Regions with a longstanding tradition of immigration recorded the highest shares of female migrants. In 2019, the percentage of females among all international migrants was highest in Northern America (51.8 per cent) and Europe (51.4 per cent). The percentage of female migrants had increased since 2005 in Northern America in particular. This was primarily the result of the ageing process, whereby migrants who had arrived decades earlier were growing older in the host country, combined with the fact that female migrants tended to have longer life expectancies than their male counterparts.

In 2019, women and men provided an almost equal share of all international migrants in Oceania (50.4 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (49.9 per cent), Central and Southern Asia (49.4 per cent), and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (49.3 per cent). By contrast, the proportions of female migrants were lower in sub-Saharan Africa (47.5 per cent), and much lower in Northern Africa and Western Asia (35.5 per cent), where male migrants significantly outnumbered female migrants.

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

In 2019, women constituted more than half of all international migrants in 100 countries or areas (map I.2). In 26 countries or areas, women accounted for more than 55 per cent of all migrants, with Nepal, Hong Kong, Latvia and Montenegro recording the highest shares of female migrants. By contrast, women accounted for less than 40 per cent of international migrants in 22 countries or areas. The proportions of female migrants were lowest in the Maldives, Bhutan, Oman and Qatar.

Map I.2. Percentage of females among all International migrants, 2019



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

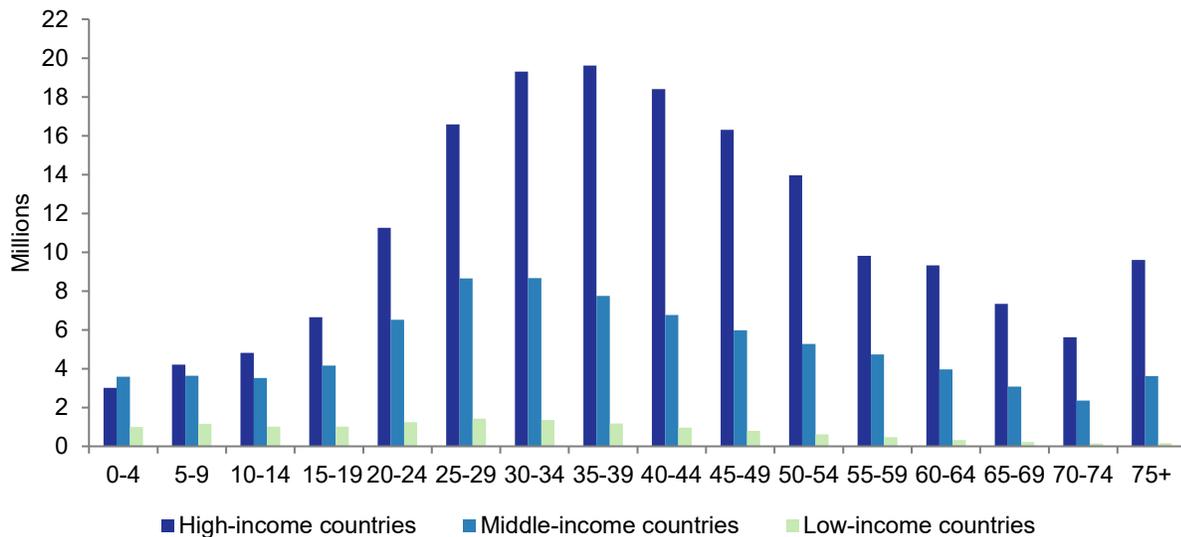
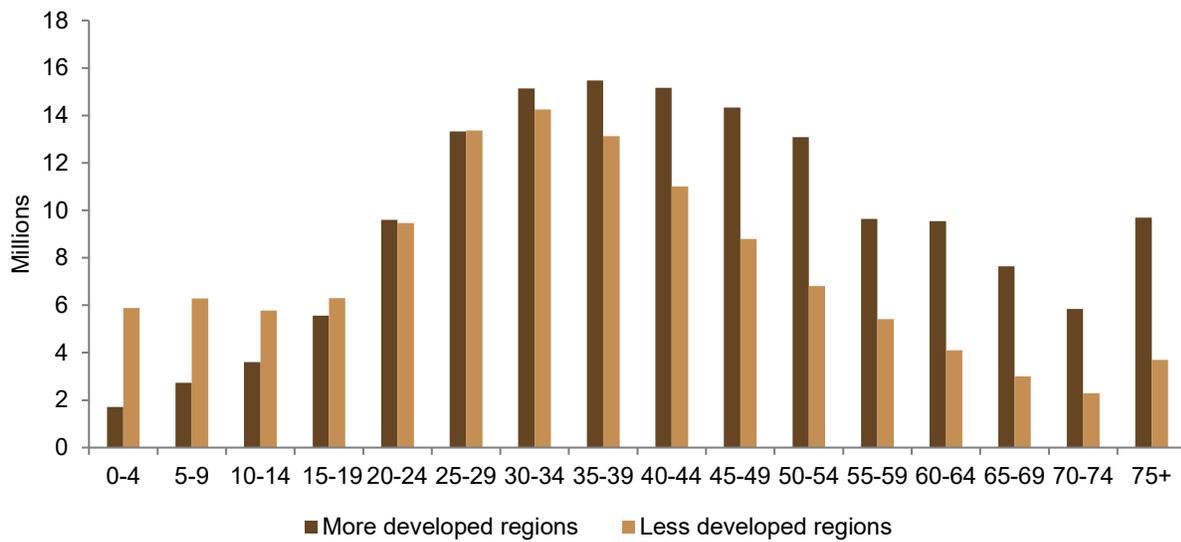
Note: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

The median age of international migrants worldwide was 39.0 years in 2019. It varied considerably across development regions and income groups. International migrants living in more developed regions were older, with a median age of 42.9 years, compared to 34.5 years for those residing in less developed regions. Migrants had a median age of 40.7 years in high-income countries, 36.6 years in middle-income countries, and 28.9 years in low-income countries.

In 2019, three out of four international migrants were between the ages of 20 and 64 years, which is the age range commonly defined as the traditional working ages (figure I.9). Of the 202 million international migrants of working age, 57 per cent were settled in more developed regions and 43 per cent in less developed regions. Two thirds (67 per cent) of international migrants of working age resided in high-income countries, while a significantly smaller fraction lived in middle-income countries (29 per cent) and in low-income countries (4 per cent).

In 2019, 38 million international migrants were below the age of 20 years, or one seventh of the global international migrant stock. The proportion of young persons among all migrants was much larger in less developed regions (20 per cent) than in more developed regions (9 per cent). Similarly, migrants under 20 years of age accounted for 32 per cent of all migrants in low-income countries, 18 per cent in middle-income countries, and 11 per cent in high-income countries.

Figure I.9. Number of international migrants by age, development group, and income level, 2019 (millions)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

Globally, there were approximately 32 million international migrants aged 65 years or over in 2019, accounting for 12 per cent of all international migrants. Older persons aged 65 years or over accounted for 15 per cent of all international migrants in more developed regions, compared with 8 per cent in less developed regions. Furthermore, migrants over 65 years of age represented only 4 per cent of all migrants in low-income countries, whereas they accounted for 11 per cent of all migrants in middle-income and 13 per cent in high-income countries.

In the period between 1990 and 2010, the proportion of international migrants of working age among all migrants increased from 69 per cent to 74 per cent and remained stable at that level between 2010 and 2019. However, the proportion of migrants under 20 years of age declined from 19 per cent in 1990 to 14 per cent in 2019. The percentage of older migrants aged 65 years or over remained stable at roughly 10 per cent between 1990 and 2019.

E. MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS: REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Globally, the number of refugees and asylum seekers reached 29 million in 2017.³ Around 83 per cent of all refugees and asylum seekers resided in less developed regions, while only 17 per cent lived in more developed regions. Middle-income countries hosted almost two thirds of refugees and asylum seekers, whereas low-income and high-income countries hosted 19 and 16 per cent of the global refugee stock, respectively.

Box I.1. Who is a refugee and an asylum seeker?

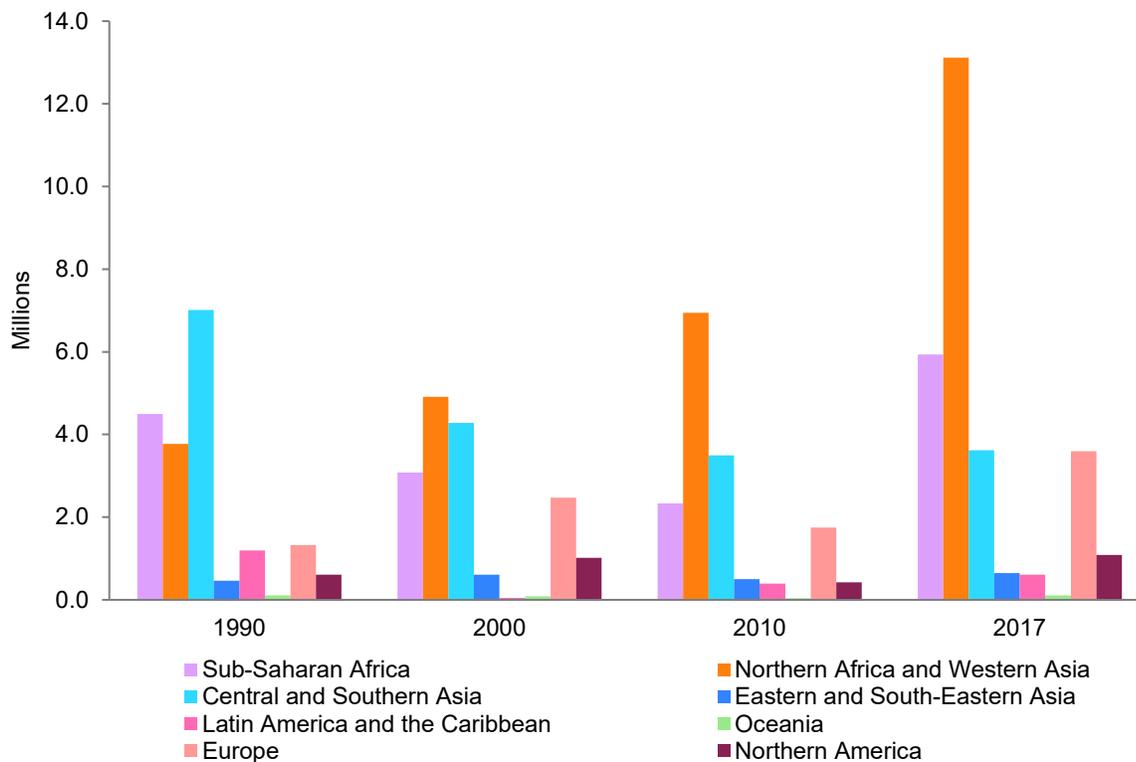
The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a *refugee* as someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it”.

An *asylum seeker* is someone seeking international protection whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed. Asylum seekers who are granted international protection become refugees. Whether asylum seekers qualify as refugees is determined by national asylum systems. Not every asylum seeker is eventually recognized as a refugee.

While the number of refugees and asylum seekers decreased by more than 5 million, from 19 million in 1990 to less than 14 million in 2005, their number more than doubled between 2005 and 2017. This corresponds to an average annual growth of over 1 million for the latter period.

The number of refugees and asylum seekers varied across regions of destination (figure I.10). In 2017, around 46 per cent of refugees and asylum seekers lived in Northern Africa and Western Asia (13.1 million). Sub-Saharan Africa hosted the second largest number of refugees and asylum seekers (5.9 million), followed by Central and Southern Asia, and Europe (3.6 million each). The remaining five regions hosted a combined total of 2.5 million refugees and asylum seekers.

³ The estimate of the number of refugees and asylum seekers were provided by UNHCR (2019) and UNRWA (2019). While the latest available estimate of the migrant stock reported in this chapter refers to the year 2019, the latest available estimate of the refugee stock refers to the year 2017.

Figure I.10. Number of refugees and asylum seekers by region of destination, 1990-2019 (millions)

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019a).

During the period from 1990 to 2017, Northern Africa and Western Asia experienced the largest increase in the refugee stock, adding more than 9 million refugees and asylum seekers. By contrast, over the same period, the number of refugees and asylum seekers decreased by more than 3 million in Central and Southern Asia.

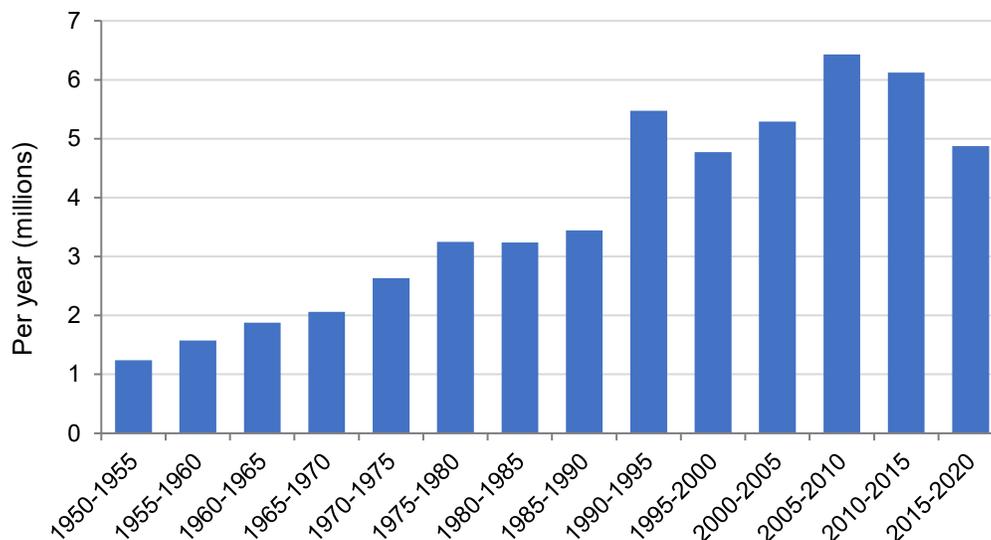
The refugee stock of 2017 accounted for 10.6 per cent of the global international migrant stock of 2019. However, this share varied significantly across development groups, income groups, and regions. While refugees and asylum seekers accounted for only 3.2 per cent of the international migrant stock in more developed regions, they comprised 20.0 per cent of all migrants in less developed regions. In low-income countries, refugees and asylum seekers constituted 41.9 per cent of the international migrant stock, compared to 22.5 per cent in middle-income countries and 2.7 per cent in high-income countries. In Northern Africa and Western Asia, and in sub-Saharan Africa, refugees and asylum seekers accounted for more than a quarter of all international migrants. By contrast, less than 5 per cent of international migrants were refugees and asylum seekers in Oceania, Northern America, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and Europe.

II. NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

A. GLOBAL TRENDS (1950 TO 2020)

Globally, the average annual net number of immigrants has increased steadily between 1950-1955 and 2005-2010 (except for the period 1990-1995), from around 1.2 million per year during 1950-1955 to around 6.4 million per year during 2005-2010 (figure II.1). It has since declined to around 4.9 million per year during 2015-2020.

Figure II.1. Average annual net number of Immigrants from 1950-1955 to 2015-2020 (millions)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019b).

Note: The average annual net number of immigrants for a given five-year period is calculated by adding of the number of net number of immigrants for all countries with positive (or negative) net migration and dividing the sum by 5.

Net migration from 1950 to 2020 saw a net positive flow of people from countries in less developed regions to countries in more developed regions, and it is expected to continue this way in the foreseeable future. Net migration from less developed regions to more developed regions has increased from around 26 thousand per year in the early 1950s to a high of 3.4 million per year during 2005-2010, and it is currently at around 2.8 million per year during 2015-2020.

The number of countries with positive net migration has varied significantly during this time. In the more developed regions, out of 45 countries the number of countries with positive net migration has varied from a low of 17 during 1955-60 to a high of 32 during 2015-2020. In the less developed regions, around two thirds of countries have had negative net migration, from a low of 102 countries during 1985-1990 to a high of 111 in 1995-2000 out of 146 countries.

Box II.1. Net migration: Definition and related terminology

Data used in this chapter are from the latest population estimates and projections produced by the United Nations Population Division for five-year intervals (United Nations, 2019b). The estimates of net migration for each country or area were produced to be consistent with past trends of fertility and mortality and with changes in the size of the population and its distribution by age and sex.

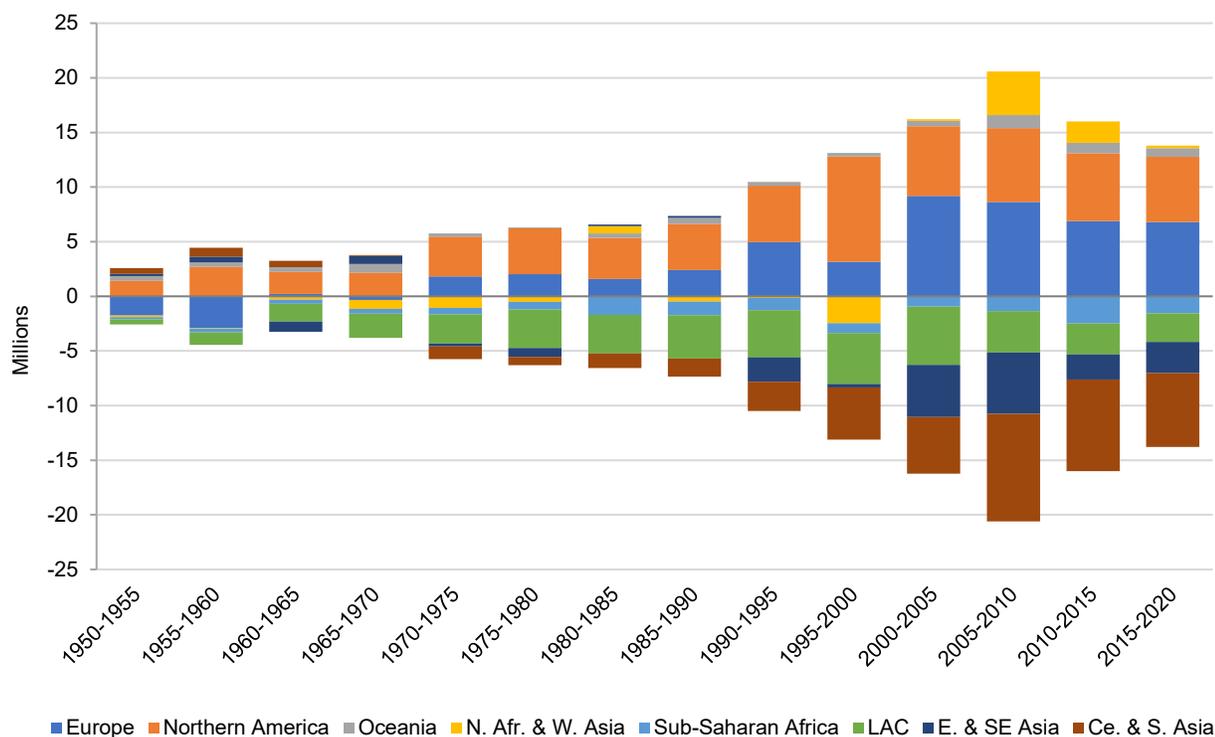
Net migration, for a given country and time period, refers to the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants, irrespective of citizenship. If more people immigrate than emigrate, the country gains population due to positive net migration, or net immigration; when more people emigrate than immigrate, the country loses population through negative net migration, or net emigration.

The data on net migration presented here do not include information on the country or region of origin or destination. For regions or groups of countries, the level of net migration reflects only movements from or to countries located outside the region or group. For the world as a whole, the level of net migration is zero.

Estimates of net migration by region show an increase in the net number of immigrants for all periods from 1950 to 2010, except for 1960-65 and a decline from 2005-2010 to the present 2015-2020 (figure II.2). During this period, the net number of immigrants changing regions increased from 2.6 million during 1950-1955 to 20.6 million during 2005-2010. For the current period (2015-2020), the net number of immigrants to have changed region of residence is estimated at 13.8 million.

Net migration has also increased as a ratio of the total population. The net number of immigrants divided by the total population has increased from 0.9 per thousand during 1950-1955 to a high of 3.0 per thousand during 2005-2010. At the present time, it is estimated at 1.8 per thousand.

Figure II.2. Average annual net number of immigrants by region, from 1950-1955 to 2015-2020 (millions)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019b).

Notes: N. Afr. & W. Asia: Northern Africa and Western Asia; LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean; E. & SE Asia: Eastern and South-Eastern Asia; Ce. & S. Asia: Central and Southern Asia.

Northern America and Oceania have had positive net migration for all periods between 1950 and 2020, while Europe has experienced positive net migration for all periods since 1970. Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa have experienced negative net migration for all periods between 1950 and 2020, while Central and Southern Asia has experienced negative net migration for all periods since 1970. Northern Africa and Western Asia’s net migration has been mostly negative until 2000 and positive since then, while Eastern and South-Eastern Asia has generally experienced negative net migration, with sporadic periods of positive net migration (figure II.2 and table II.1).

As net migration combines the number of immigrants and emigrants, and also includes the return of diaspora as immigration, changes in its size or trend can be the consequence of very different push/pull factors. Therefore, while long-term trends tend to be the result of well-established migration corridors, when a region experiences a short-term reversal in the direction of net migration (e.g. Northern Africa and Western Asia in 1980-85), it is likely to be the result of either the beginning or end of an exceptional crisis, where a significant number of people move out of a region at the start of a crisis or return to that region after the crisis has been resolved.

TABLE II.1. NET NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS PER PERIOD BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND REGION, 1950-2020 (THOUSANDS)

<i>Development group/region</i>	<i>1950-60</i>	<i>1960-70</i>	<i>1970-80</i>	<i>1980-90</i>	<i>1990-00</i>	<i>2000-05</i>	<i>2005-10</i>	<i>2010-15</i>	<i>2015-20</i>
More developed	271	5,965	13,109	12,812	23,767	16,452	16,945	14,527	14,010
Less developed	-271	-5,965	-13,109	-12,812	-23,767	-16,452	-16,945	-14,527	-14,010
Europe	-4,637	-131	3,856	3,984	8,130	9,179	8,643	6,890	6,805
Northern America	4,111	4,182	7,836	7,981	14,791	6,385	6,751	6,199	5,982
Oceania	832	1,225	379	964	674	508	1,186	957	781
N. Afr. & W. Asia	-240	-1,114	-1,573	201	-2,617	151	4,010	1,950	225
Sub-Saharan Africa	-531	-825	-1,270	-2,978	-2,002	-955	-1,344	-2,485	-1,566
LAC	-1,612	-3,818	-6,188	-7,460	-8,972	-5,331	-3,793	-2,830	-2,607
E. & SE Asia	742	-177	-1,101	313	-2,546	-4,762	-5,634	-2,311	-2,850
Ce. & S. Asia	1,336	659	-1,939	-3,005	-7,459	-5,176	-9,819	-8,370	-6,770

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019b).

Notes: N. Afr. & W. Asia: Northern Africa and Western Asia; LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean; E. & SE Asia: Eastern and South-Eastern Asia; Ce. & S. Asia: Central and Southern Asia.

Net migration across regions is only part of the picture since a significant amount of migration also takes place within regions. Between 2000 and 2010, amongst the 201 countries or areas with net migration estimates, 75 had positive net migration while 125 had negative net migration. The number of countries with positive net migration has increased from 75 during 2000-2010 to 81 during 2010-2020, while those with negative net migration has decreased from 125 to 118.

Overall, the sum of countries with positive net migration for the period 2015-2020 is 24.4 million compared to 13.8 million at the regional level. This implies that around 10.6 million or 43 per cent of net migration took place within the same SDG region. Estimates of the international migrant stock support this. According to the 2019 migrant stock estimates, 44 per cent of all international migrants resided in a country within the region in which they were born.

TABLE II.2. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE NET MIGRATION DURING 2000-2010 AND 2010-2020, AND THOSE WITH A CHANGE IN THE DIRECTION OF NET MIGRATION BETWEEN 2000-2010 AND 2010-2020, BY REGION

Region	Positive net migration		Negative net migration		Change in the direction of net migration between 2000-2010 and 2010-2020	
	2000-2010	2010-2020	2000-2010	2010-2020	From positive to negative	From negative to positive
World	75	81	125	118	11	18
Central and Southern Asia	2	4	12	10	0	2
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	7	8	12	11	0	1
Europe	25	25	15	15	3	3
Latin America And the Caribbean	10	13	27	24	0	3
Northern Africa and Western Asia	12	14	13	11	0	2
Northern America	2	2	0	0	0	0
Oceania	3	4	10	9	0	1
Sub-Saharan Africa	14	11	36	38	8	6

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019b).

Note: Countries or areas estimated to have zero net migration either during 2000-2010 or 2010-2020 were excluded for the respective period.

1. Net sending regions

Most countries in Central and Southern Asia are net senders (negative net migration) for the period 2000-2010 and 2010-2020 (12 and 10, respectively, out of 14). Combined, a net annual average of 1.5 million people emigrated from this region, making it the largest sending region in the world. The top sending countries during 2000-2020 were India (478 thousand per annum) and Bangladesh (445 thousand), followed by Nepal (179 thousand) and Pakistan (162 thousand). These four countries combined, accounted for 1.3 million or 84 per cent of the region's total net migration.

Eastern and South-Eastern Asia is the second largest region in terms of the number of net emigrants (an annual average of 0.8 million), but this region also includes several countries with positive net migration. Also, for this region, the level of net migration differed significantly between the periods, while the first ten years (2000-2010) experienced an annual average of -1.1 million net number of immigrants, the annual average during the second period (2010-2020) was -0.5 million. The largest sending countries of the region during 2000-2020 were China (372 thousand), Philippines and Myanmar (around 200 thousand each) and Indonesia (172 thousand), while the largest receiving countries were Malaysia (97 thousand), Singapore (63 thousand) and Japan (58 thousand).

Latin America and the Caribbean follows in terms of negative net migration with an annual average of 0.7 million between 2000 and 2020 (0.9 million during 2000-2010 and 0.5 million during 2010-2020). The countries in this region have very diverse migration patterns: 10 out of 37 had positive net migration during the first 10 years, while 14 of them experienced positive net migration during 2010-2020. The top sending countries in the region during 2000-2020 were Venezuela (196 thousand), Mexico (175 thousand), Peru (112 thousand) and El Salvador (52 thousand), while the top receiving countries were Chile (44 thousand) and Colombia (20 thousand).

Around three quarters of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa were net sending countries during 2010-2020. Altogether, the region had an annual negative net migration of around 0.3 million (0.2 million during 2000-2010 and 0.4 million during 2010-2020). The top sending countries in the region during 2000-2020 were Zimbabwe (121 thousand), United Republic of Tanzania (63 thousand), Nigeria (54 thousand) and Guinea (49 thousand). South

Africa was the top receiving country in the region (165 thousand), followed by Angola (41 thousand), Sierra Leone (26 thousand) and Comoros (20 thousand).

2. Net receiving regions

Europe is the region with the largest positive net migration (it also hosts the largest number of foreign-born population). Between 2000 and 2020, the region experienced an annual net inflow of around 1.6 million migrants. Net migration to Europe was larger during 2000-2010, at an average of 1.8 million per year, than during 2010-2020 (1.4 million per year). Much of the migration taking place in the region is within its borders; of the 40 countries in Europe with estimates on net migration 25 had positive net migration while the other 15 had negative net migration. The top receiving countries included the Russian Federation (341 thousand), the United Kingdom (289 thousand), Germany (276 thousand) and Italy (255 thousand), while the top sending countries are Romania (96 thousand), Poland (41 thousand), Albania (30 thousand) and Lithuania (28 thousand).

Estimates of net migration for Northern America are for Canada and the United States of America. The region had an average annual net migration of around 1.25 million (about 1 million into the United States of America and about a quarter of a million into Canada) during 2010-2020. The United States of America is the country with the largest number of foreign-born people in the world.

During 2000-2020, Northern Africa and Western Asia had an average annual net migration of 317 thousand. Around half of the countries in the region were net senders and the others net receivers. The top receiving countries were United Arab Emirates (263 thousand), Saudi Arabia (211 thousand) and Qatar (97 thousand), as well as Turkey (155 thousand), which experienced refugee arrivals in the recent past. The top sending countries included the Syrian Arab Republic (377 thousand), Sudan (116 thousand), Morocco (92 thousand) and Egypt (41 thousand), which experienced large outflows of forced migrants and refugees.

During 2000-2020, positive net migration into Oceania averaged around 176 thousand per year, mostly into Australia (179 thousand), New Zealand (18 thousand) and New Caledonia (1 thousand). The rest of the countries in the region experienced negative net migration.

TABLE II.3. TEN COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF NET IMMIGRATION AND NET EMIGRATION DURING 2000-2010 AND 2010-2020
(THOUSANDS OF MIGRANTS PER YEAR)

<i>Net immigration countries</i>				
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country or area</i>	<i>2000-2010</i>	<i>Country or area</i>	<i>2010-2020</i>
1	United States of America	1076	United States of America	974
2	Spain	518	Germany	466
3	United Arab Emirates	478	Turkey	318
4	Russian Federation	410	Russian Federation	271
5	United Kingdom	318	United Kingdom	260
6	Italy	272	Canada	245
7	Canada	238	Saudi Arabia	240
8	Saudi Arabia	182	Italy	238
9	Australia	180	Australia	178
10	South Africa	165	South Africa	165
<i>Net emigration countries</i>				
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Country or area</i>	<i>2000-2010</i>	<i>Country or area</i>	<i>2010-2020</i>
1	Bangladesh	-475	Syrian Arab Republic	-752
2	India	-454	India	-501
3	China	-414	Bangladesh	-415
4	Philippines	-279	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	-370
5	Mexico	-277	China	-329
6	Myanmar	-255	Pakistan	-225
7	Indonesia	-248	Nepal	-183
8	Peru	-211	Myanmar	-134
9	Nepal	-174	Zimbabwe	-121
10	Sudan	-153	Philippines	-117

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019b).

B. CONTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION TO POPULATION CHANGE

International migration contributes significantly to population growth in many parts of the world and ameliorate negative growth in some countries or areas. This section examines projected change in total population by 2070 under two scenarios: the “medium-variant” scenario, assuming a continuation of recent levels of net migration, and the “zero-net-migration” scenario, assuming that the number of immigrants equals the number of emigrants for all time periods starting in 2015-2020.

As people relocate from sending to receiving countries, the overall world population is not likely to be greatly affected by migration. The slight difference (<0.1 per cent) between the medium-variant scenario and the zero-net-migration scenario for the world population in 2070 (table II.4), would be due to the different mortality and fertility rates that the migrants would be exposed to. At the regional level, however, receiving regions are projected to be significantly more populous under the medium-variant scenario than under the zero-net-migration scenario, while sending regions are projected to be much less affected in relative terms.

Under the zero-net-migration scenario, Northern America’s population would be close to 21 per cent smaller by 2070 than under the medium-variant scenario, while Oceania’s would be 17 per cent smaller and Europe’s about 9 per cent smaller. The sending regions’ populations would be between 0.1 and just over 3 per cent larger by 2070 under the zero-net-migration scenario.

Box II.2. Net migration and population change

Populations vary in size and either grow or decline over time due to natural change, the number of births minus the number of deaths, and/or net migration, the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants.

Migration affects population size by the addition of immigrants and the subtraction of emigrants. As migrants generally have a different age distribution to that of the total population, it can also affect its age distribution, and its levels of mortality and fertility.

Migration tends to involve mostly people of working-age and therefore increases the working-age population at the destination, while reducing the working-age population at the origin.

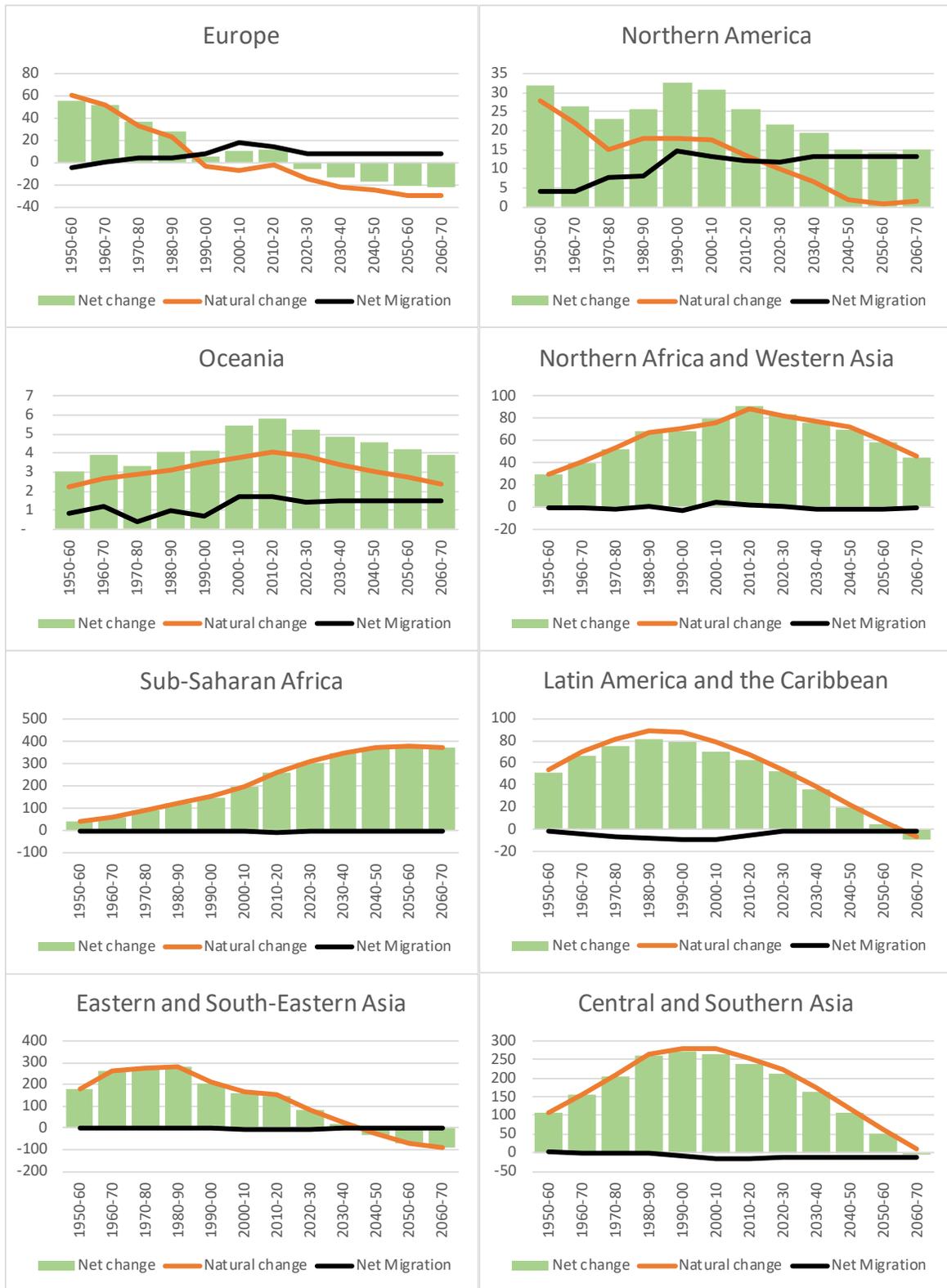
TABLE II.4. PROJECTED POPULATION IN 2070 ACCORDING TO THE MEDIUM VARIANT AND THE ZERO-NET-MIGRATION SCENARIO, BY REGION

Region	Population in 2070 (millions)		Difference between medium-variant and zero-net-migration scenarios (percentage)
	Medium-variant scenario	Zero-net-migration scenario	
World	10,459	10,454	<0.1
Central and Southern Asia	2,545	2,627	-3.2
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	2,245	2,278	-1.5
Europe	667	610	8.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	759	772	-1.8
Northern Africa and Western Asia	856	858	-0.1
Northern America	454	360	20.7
Oceania	65	55	16.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	2,867	2,895	-1.0

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019b).

As shown below in figure II.3, since 1950 natural change has been the driving force (with few exceptions) behind population change for all regions. In terms of contribution to the total population change, natural growth has reached its peak in all regions except in sub-Saharan Africa, where it is expected to peak during the 2050-2060 decade. Net migration has at times and for certain regions, played a noticeable part in slowing population loss, or in supporting population growth.

Figure II.3. Contribution of natural change and net migration to total population change by region, from 1950-1960 to 2060-2070 (millions of persons per decade)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019b).

Between 1950 and 1970 Europe was experiencing negative net migration but as natural growth was still positive (an annual average of 6 million more births than deaths were taking place during 1950s), total population of the region was still growing. A continuing decline in fertility, however, further eroded natural growth and a few decades later (by the 1990s), natural change had turned negative. However, net migration had turned positive in the 1970s and contributed to sustaining overall population growth until 2020, offsetting the loss in population due to negative natural change. Beyond 2020, though, it is projected that net migration will not be enough to sustain population growth in the region and total population is expected to shrink.

Northern America has been experiencing a similar transition, albeit with population growth continuing throughout the period. In the 1950s, population in this region was growing at an annual average of 3.2 million of which 2.8 million was due to natural increase and 0.4 million due to net migration. By the 1990s, the region was still growing at an annual average of 3.3 million but by this time the contribution of migration had increased considerably, with natural increase accounting for 1.8 million and migration for 1.5 million. With fertility levels continuing to decline, net migration is expected to exceed the contribution of natural increase by 2030. Natural growth is expected to be near zero by around 2050, beyond which population growth for the region would be dependent solely on continuing net migration.

Eastern and South-Eastern Asia will be the next region where the contribution of natural change is expected to turn negative after 2040. In this case, both net migration and natural growth are projected to be negative, although net migration would only be a fraction of natural growth.

Latin America and the Caribbean is expected to follow Eastern and South-Eastern Asia. Mainly due to low and declining fertility rates, the contribution of natural change is projected to be negative by 2070. Continued net out migration from the region is expected to accentuate the population decline beyond 2060. Net migration would be responsible for around 22 per cent of the decline in the total population of the region during the 2060s, but less significant thereafter.

Central and Southern Asia is also projected to reach negative population change before 2070, at first mainly due to negative net migration, but later mostly due to negative natural change.

The population of Oceania, Northern Africa and Western Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are projected to continue to grow well beyond 2070. In the case of Oceania, the share of net migration in the overall population growth is projected to increase from around 30 per cent in the current decade to close to 40 per cent by 2070. For the other two regions, net migration is expected to have a minimal effect on the total population change, remaining under 5 per cent throughout the period.

C. IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION ON THE AGE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION

The world is ageing rapidly. The world's population aged 60 and over is projected to more than double from 1.0 billion in 2020 to 2.5 billion in 2070, while the median age of the world population is projected to increase from 30.9 to 38.7 years. Because international migrants tend to comprise larger proportions of working-age persons compared to the overall population, positive net migration can contribute to slowing the long-term trend toward population ageing as shown in table II.5.

1. Median age of the population

In more developed regions, the median age is projected to increase from 42 years in 2020 to 46.8 years in 2070, and with zero net migration it would be two years higher at 48.8 years. During this time, the median age in less

developed regions is projected to increase from 29.0 years to 37.7 years, but the effect of net migration is projected to be insignificant.

Under the medium-variant migration scenario, the median age of the population of Northern America is projected to increase from 38.6 years in 2020 to 44.3 years in 2070, but it would increase to 47.1 years with zero-net migration.

Oceania and Europe are also expected to benefit significantly from migration in dampening the increase in the median age. In the case of Oceania, the median age is projected to increase from 33.4 years in 2020 to 39.5 years in 2070, instead of an expected increase to 41.0 years with zero net migration. For Europe, currently with a median age of 42.5 years, the projected median age of 47.7 years by 2070 would further increase to 48.7 years under the zero-net-migration scenario.

TABLE II.5. MEDIAN AGE OF THE POPULATION IN 2020, AND PROJECTED MEDIAN AGE UNDER MEDIUM-VARIANT AND ZERO-NET-MIGRATION SCENARIOS IN 2070, BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND REGION

<i>Development group/ region</i>	<i>Median age</i>			<i>Change to 2070</i>	
	<i>2020</i>	<i>2070 with migration</i>	<i>2070 with zero-net migration</i>	<i>Difference with migration</i>	<i>Difference with zero-net migration</i>
More developed regions	42.0	46.8	48.8	4.8	6.8
Less developed regions	29.0	37.7	37.7	8.7	8.6
Northern America	38.6	44.3	47.1	5.7	8.5
Oceania	33.4	39.5	41.0	6.1	7.6
Europe	42.5	47.7	48.7	5.2	6.2
Northern Africa and Western Asia	27.0	37.1	37.3	10.1	10.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	18.7	28.1	28.1	9.4	9.4
Central and Southern Asia	27.6	41.3	41.2	13.7	13.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	31.0	45.7	45.5	14.7	14.5
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	36.6	46.9	46.7	10.3	10.1

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019b).

For the other five regions, the effect of net migration on median age of the population is expected to be relatively small, ranging from 0 to +/-0.2 years.

3. Working-age population

A similar trend is observed for the role of net migration in affecting the share of the working-age population, another measure of population ageing. Based on the medium-variant migration scenario, the working-age percentage of the world population, defined as aged 20 to 64 years, is projected to decrease from 57.4 per cent in 2020 to 55.2 per cent in 2070. While at the world level this change is a consequence of the demographic transition, at the regional and country levels the change in the share of the working-age population is also affected by international migration.

Four of the eight regions are projected to be positively affected by migration and consequently to have an increase in the share of working-age population.

In Northern America, the projected share of the working-age population would be 2.4 percentage points higher under the medium-variant migration scenario than under the zero-net-migration scenario. The projected share of the working-age population under the medium-variant migration scenario in 2070 would be higher by 1.2 percentage points in Oceania, 0.8 percentage points in Europe and 0.5 percentage points in Northern Africa and Western Asia than under the zero-net-migration scenario.

The effect of net migration on the share of the working-age population is projected to be small for the other four regions, less than 1 percentage point.

III. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICIES

When supported by appropriate policies, migration can contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. The importance of the nexus between migration policies and migration outcomes is explicitly acknowledged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Specifically, SDG target 10.7 calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies.

This chapter provides an overview of Government policies and programmes related to international migration, including policies to govern immigration and to address irregular migration. It reviews policy measures related to migrants' rights, including access to services, as well as policies to foster the integration of migrants into host societies. The chapter also examines Government measures to maximise the development impacts of migration and to support diaspora investment and migrant return.

The data showcased in this chapter were collected through the module on international migration (module III) of the United Nations Twelfth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development (the "Inquiry") (UN DESA, 2018).⁴ The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) assisted in gathering responses from Governments. As of September 2019, data were available for 111 countries, which reflect the answers given by the responding government entities. The availability of information on migration policies varies by region.⁵

A. GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES ON IMMIGRATION, EMIGRATION AND RETURN

1. *Immigration through regular channels*

Despite the increase in migrant stock between 1990 and 2019 (see chapter 1) and the rise in anti-immigration sentiment in many countries, relatively few Governments are seeking to lower immigration (figure III.1). In 2019, the majority of Governments reported either having policies to raise levels of immigration through regular channels (37 per cent) or policies to maintain current levels (26 per cent). Only 3 per cent of Governments had policies to lower their current immigration levels. Central and Southern Asia** had the highest proportion of Governments reporting a policy to raise current levels of immigration (60 per cent), followed by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* (57 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean* (50 per cent) (annex table III.1). Oceania had the highest proportion of Governments with a policy to maintain current levels of immigration (44 per cent), followed by Europe and Northern America (32 per cent). Europe and Northern America also had the highest proportion of Governments with a policy to lower current immigration levels (10 per cent).

2. *Immigration for family reunification*

Most countries allow migration for the purpose of family reunification,⁶ at least under certain conditions. In 2019, an overwhelming majority of Governments reported either having policies aimed at maintaining their current level of immigration for family reunification (31 per cent) or not having a policy to influence it (42 per cent) (figure III.1). Only 6 per cent of Governments had policies to lower immigration for family reunification, while 21 per cent had policies to raise it. Central and Southern Asia**, and Latin America and the Caribbean* had the highest

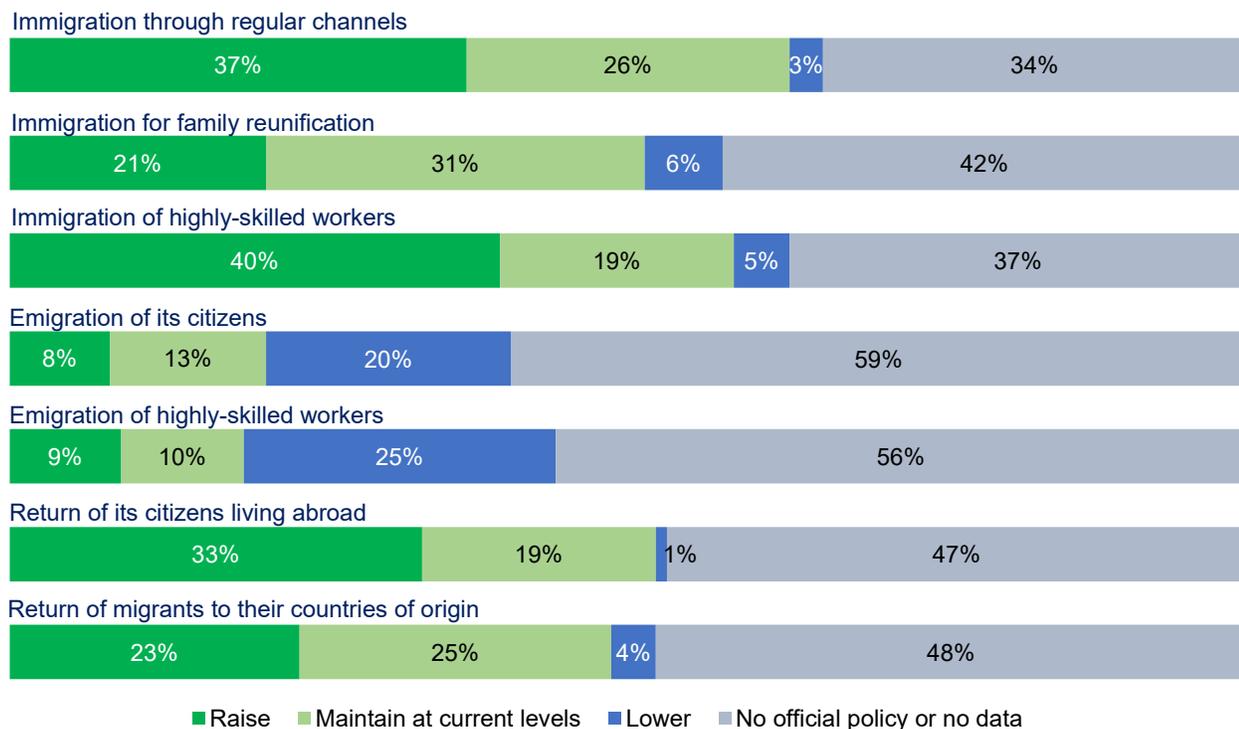
⁴ The Twelfth Inquiry was sent to 197 countries, including all 193 Member States, two Observer States (the Holy See and the State of Palestine) and two non-member States (Cook Islands and Niue) of the United Nations.

⁵ Throughout the chapter, regions with country coverage of less than 50 per cent are denoted with an asterisk '*' symbol. Regions for which data are available for less than 50 per cent of countries and for less than 50 per cent of the total population. are denoted with a double asterisk '**' symbol.

⁶ Family reunification/reunion "is a process whereby family members separated through forced or voluntary migration regroup in a country other than the one of their origin" (IOM, 2011). The right "of non-nationals to enter into and reside in a country where their family members reside lawfully or of which they have the nationality in order to preserve the family unit" (IOM, 2019).

proportions of Governments with policies to raise immigration for family reunification (40 per cent and 36 per cent, respectively). Oceania had the highest proportion of Governments seeking to lower their current level of immigration for family reunification (22 per cent).

Figure III.1. Percentage of Governments with policy measures concerning the annual level of immigration, emigration and return, 2019



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019c).
 Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019).

3. Immigration of highly-skilled workers

Globally, many countries report having some type of policy measure to attract highly-skilled migrants. In 2019, 40 per cent of Governments reported having policies to raise immigration of highly-skilled workers, 5 per cent had policies to lower such inflows, and the remaining countries either had policies aimed at maintaining the current levels (19 per cent) or had no policies in place (37 per cent) (figure III.1). Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* (71 per cent), Central and Southern Asia** (60 per cent) and Europe and Northern America (55 per cent) had the highest proportion of Governments reporting policies to raise the immigration of highly-skilled workers above current levels, while Oceania had the highest proportion of Governments with a policy to lower such inflows (22 per cent).

4. Emigration of citizens and of highly-skilled workers

While emigration generates both opportunities and challenges for countries of origin, few Governments worldwide report having explicit policies to change levels of emigration. In 2019, the majority of Governments had no explicit policy on the emigration of their citizens (59 per cent) or on the emigration of highly-skilled workers (56 per cent) (figure III.1). Less than one in ten Governments reported that they sought to raise the level of emigration of either their citizens or highly-skilled workers. By contrast, 20 per cent of Governments sought to lower the emigration of citizens and 25 per cent sought to lower the emigration of highly-skilled workers.

At the regional level, Europe and Northern America had the highest share of Governments reporting a policy to lower current levels of emigration (26 per cent), while Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* had the highest proportion seeking to raise levels of emigration (43 per cent). Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* also had the highest proportion of Governments seeking to raise the level of emigration of highly-skilled workers (43 per cent) while Central and Southern Asia** (40 per cent) and Sub-Saharan Africa (33 per cent) had the highest share of Governments seeking to lower such outflows.

5. Return of migrants to their countries of origin and of citizens from abroad

The return of citizens living abroad can contribute to the development of the countries of origin by promoting capital inflows, investments and the transfer of technologies and knowledge acquired abroad. Many Governments report having policies or programmes to encourage the return of their citizens living abroad. In 2019, 33 per cent of Governments reported having policies to raise levels of return of citizens living abroad, compared to 1 per cent with policies to lower such flows (figure III.1). Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest proportion of Governments reporting policies or programmes to raise the level of return of their citizens living abroad (42 per cent), followed by Central and Southern Asia** (40 per cent), and Europe and Northern America (39 per cent).

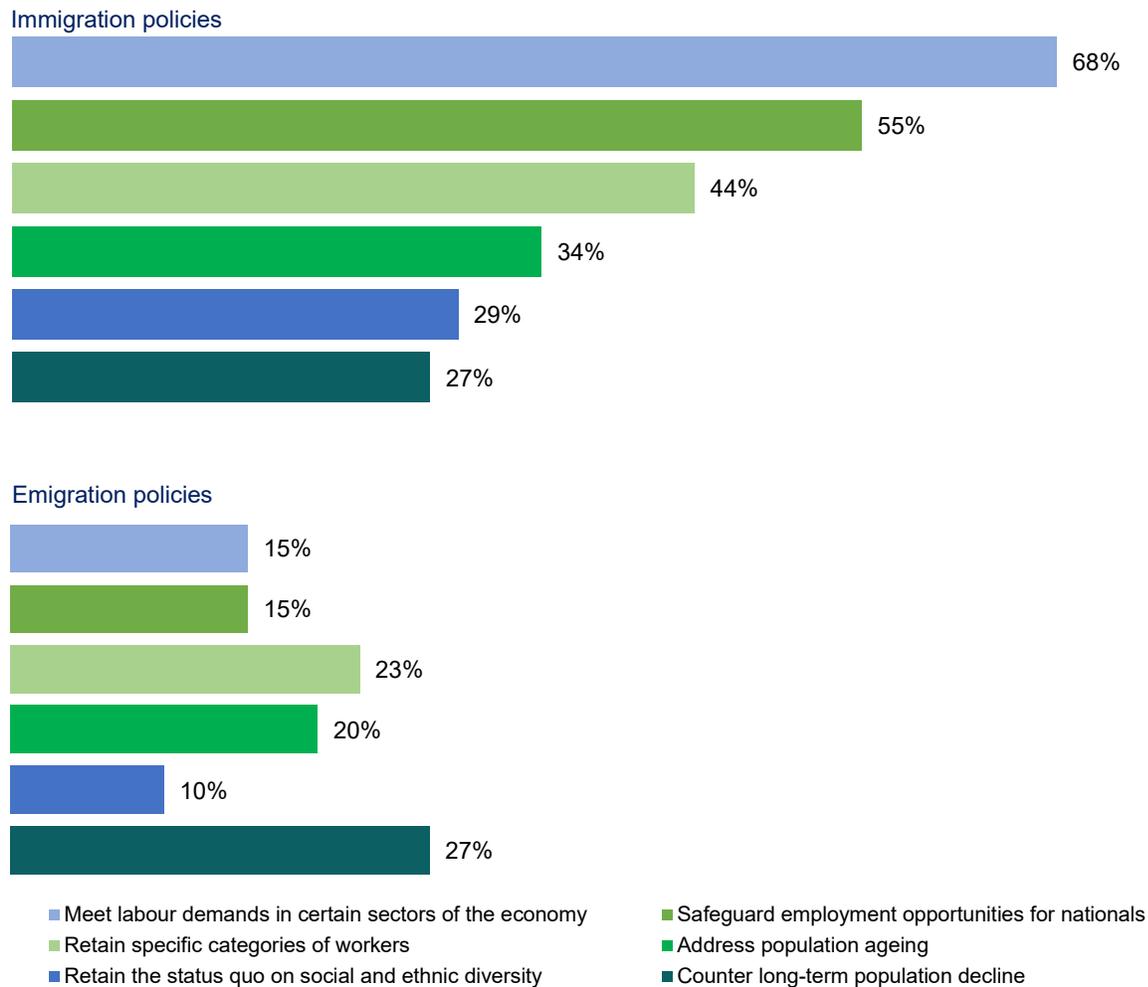
Policies to influence levels of return of international migrants to their country of origin are somewhat less prevalent. Twenty-three per cent of Governments reported having policies to raise the level of migrant returns, while 25 per cent sought to maintain current levels. Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* had the highest proportion of Governments with policies to raise migrant returns above current levels (43 per cent), followed by Europe and Northern America (32 per cent).

6. Rationale for migration policies

Countries cite a variety of underlying reasons for their current immigration and emigration policies. Among the 111 countries with data, 68 per cent identified meeting labour market demands as an underlying reason for their current immigration policy (figure III.2). A large share of Governments also viewed immigration policy as a tool to safeguard employment opportunities for their nationals (55 per cent) or retain specific categories of workers (44 per cent). Demographic drivers were cited as a rationale by around one-third of responding countries, with 34 per cent of Governments pursuing their current immigration policy to address population ageing and 27 per cent to counter long-term population decline.

Oceania (100 per cent) and Europe and Northern America (90 per cent) had the highest percentage of Governments that identified meeting labour market demands as an underlying reason for their current immigration policy (annex table III.2). Central and Southern Asia** (80 per cent) had the highest proportion of Governments seeking to safeguard opportunities for nationals, followed by Oceania (78 per cent). Oceania also had the highest percentage of Governments that identified retaining the status quo on social or ethnic diversity (67 per cent) or seeking to retain specific categories of workers (89 per cent) as rationales for their current immigration policies. In terms of demographic drivers, Europe and Northern America had the highest share of Governments citing countering population decline (45 per cent) or addressing population ageing (48 per cent) as major underlying reasons for their immigration policies.

Figure III.2. Percentage of Governments by major underlying reasons for setting current migration policies, 2019



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019c).

Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019).

In terms of the rationale for current emigration policies, countering long-term population decline was the most widely cited reason (27 per cent), followed by retaining specific categories of workers (23 per cent), and addressing population ageing (20 per cent). Oceania had the highest proportion of Governments that viewed countering long-term population decline or addressing population ageing as reasons for their emigration policy (56 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively). Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* had the highest proportion of Governments citing meeting labour demands in certain sectors of the economy (29 per cent) as an underlying reason for their current emigration policies, while Central and Southern Asia** had the highest proportions of Governments that identified safeguarding employment opportunities for nationals or retaining specific categories of workers (40 per cent each). Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest proportion of Governments reporting that their emigration policy sought to maintain the status quo on social and ethnic diversity (21 per cent).

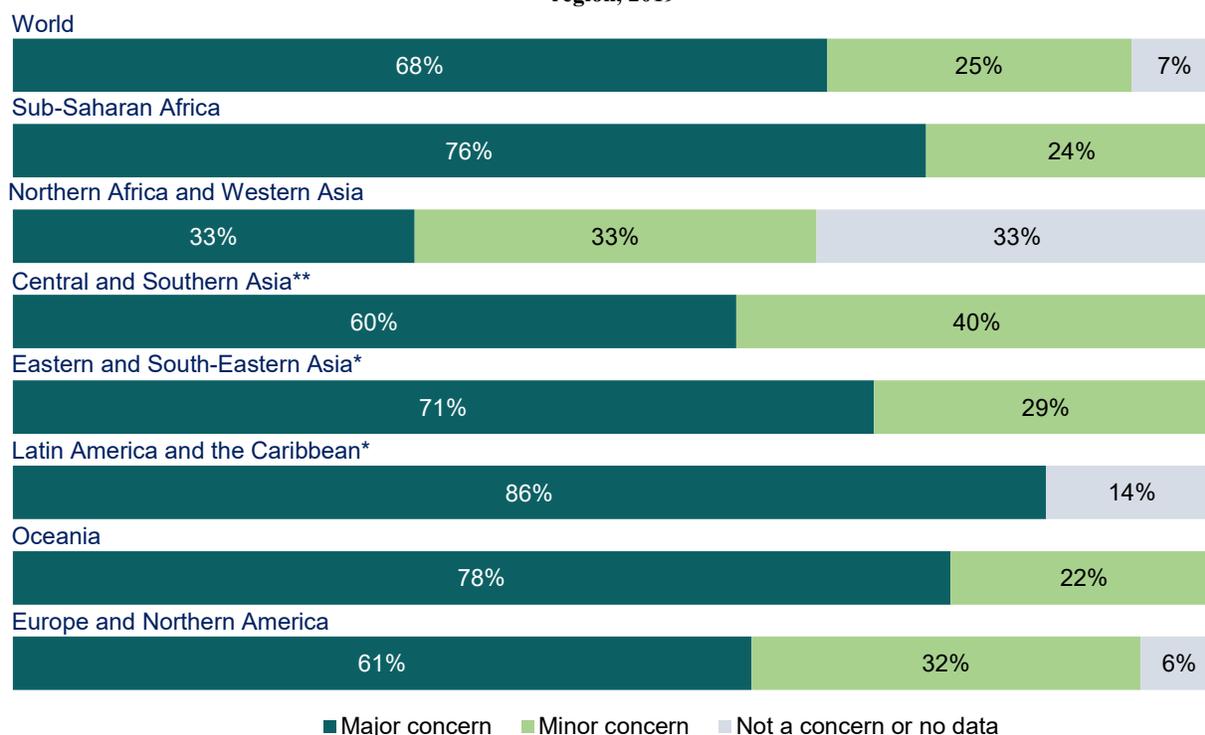
B. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

1. Level of concern about irregular migration

Irregular migration poses multiple challenges to countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as to migrants themselves. Migrants in irregular situations are often vulnerable to discrimination and abuse and are at risk of being exploited by criminal organizations involved in human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Among the countries that provided information in 2019, irregular migration was considered as a matter of concern by Governments of all but five countries. Globally, 68 per cent of Governments viewed irregular migration in their countries as a major concern, and another 25 per cent viewed it as a minor concern (figure III.3).

Figure III.3. Percentage of Governments that view the number of migrants in an irregular situation as a matter of concern by region, 2019



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019c).

Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019).

Although irregular migration does not affect all regions to the same extent, Governments in most regions, except for Northern Africa and Western Asia, reported that they were highly concerned about irregular migration. The regions with the highest share of Governments expressing major concern about irregular migration were Latin America and the Caribbean* (86 per cent), Oceania (78 per cent), and sub-Saharan Africa (76 per cent). Irregular migration was a major concern for 69 per cent of countries hosting one million or more international migrants in 2019.

2. Measures to address irregular migration

A growing number of governments have responded to irregular migration by reforming their immigration laws, promoting the return of irregular migrants and implementing regularization programmes (figure III.4). Among policy measures to address various dimensions of irregular immigration and promote regular migration, 91 per cent of Governments globally reported having formal strategies to address trafficking of persons and migrant smuggling. Eighty-four per cent of Governments reported having provisions for unaccompanied or separated minors,⁷ including specialized procedures for their identification, referral, care and family reunification; legal assistance; and specific visa and asylum procedures.

Eighty per cent of Governments reported having information and awareness-raising campaigns. These included government websites, awareness-raising events or trainings on topics related to pre-and post-arrival in destination countries or after return. Eighty per cent of Governments also reported having penalties for employers of migrants in an irregular situation; while 76 per cent had pre-arrival authorization controls. Seventy-five per cent of Governments indicated that they had a system to monitor visa overstays or used fines or detention of migrants in an irregular situation. Sixty-five per cent of Governments reported facilitating the regularization of their legal status through formal mechanisms.

Formal strategies to address trafficking of persons and migrant smuggling were reported by all Governments in Central and Southern Asia**, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia*, Oceania, and Europe and Northern America. Europe and Northern America also had the highest share of Governments with provisions for unaccompanied or separated minors (97 per cent) or with information and awareness-raising campaigns (90 per cent). All Governments in Central and Southern Asia**, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia*, and Oceania reported having penalties for employers of migrants in an irregular situation. Central and Southern Asia** had the highest proportion of Governments with pre-arrival authorization controls or with a system to monitor visa overstays (100 per cent each). All Governments with available data in Central and Southern Asia**, and in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* reported using fines or imprisonment of migrants in an irregular situation. Latin America and the Caribbean* was the region with the highest share of Governments reporting formal mechanisms to regularize the legal status of migrants in an irregular situation (93 per cent).

C. POLICIES RELATED TO MIGRANT RIGHTS AND INTEGRATION

1. Services, welfare benefits and rights

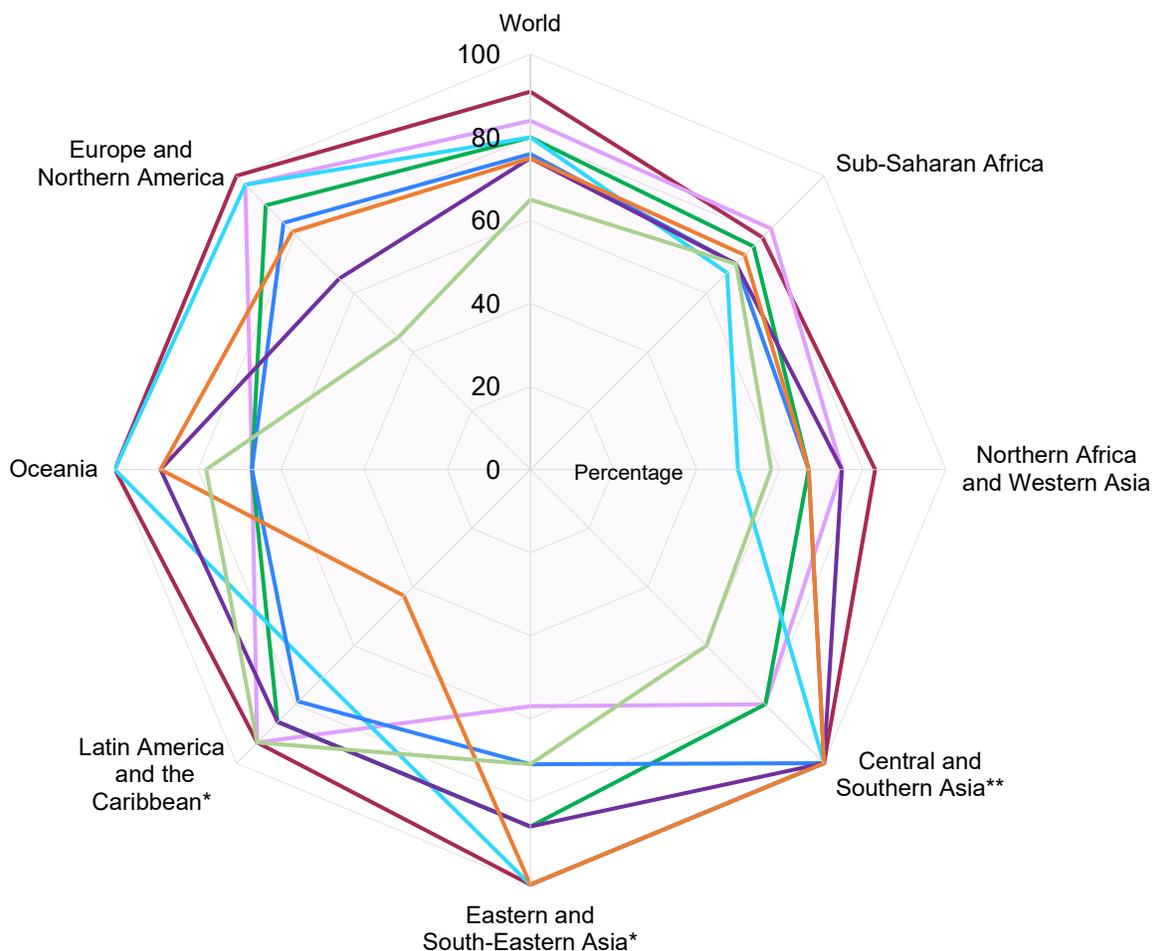
Among the countries that provided data on international migration to the Twelfth Inquiry, policy measures to protect migrants' rights and ensure their access to basic and essential services varied widely (figure III.5). Globally, 95 per cent of Governments in 2019 reported having policies to provide non-nationals equal access to essential or emergency health care. Eighty-six per cent of Governments provided such services to all non-nationals, regardless of their immigration status, while 8 per cent provided them only to those migrants with legal immigration status. Essential or emergency health care refers to any medical care that is urgently required for the preservation of a person's life or the avoidance of irreparable harm to their health.

Ninety-three per cent of Governments with data indicated that they ensured equal access to justice. Eighty-two per cent of Governments had policies to provide equal access to justice to non-nationals regardless of immigration status, while 11 per cent of Governments had such policies only for those migrants with legal immigration status. Ninety-one per cent of Governments reported having measures to provide equal access to public education,

⁷ Unaccompanied minors are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so. Separated children are children who have been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives.

including public primary schools and secondary schools; of these, 62 per cent provided the same level of access to public education to all migrants and 29 per cent provided access only to non-nationals with legal immigration status.

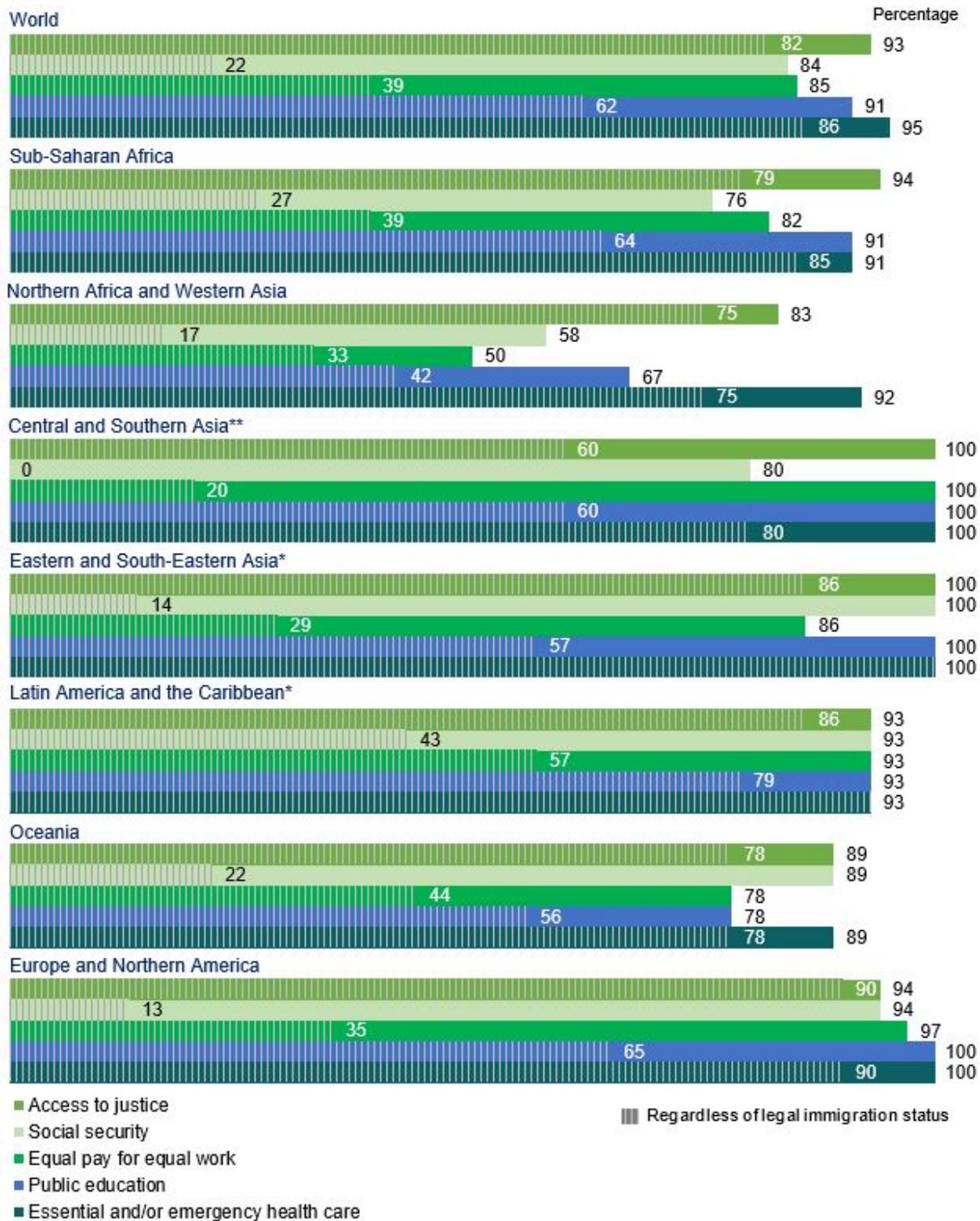
Figure III.4. Percentage of Governments with policy measures to address irregular immigration by region, 2019



- Formal strategies to address trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling
- Provisions for unaccompanied minors or separated children
- Migration information and awareness-raising campaigns
- Penalties for employers of migrants in an irregular situation
- Pre-arrival authorization controls
- System to monitor visa overstays
- Fines or imprisonment/confinement of migrants in an irregular situation
- Formal mechanisms for regularization of legal status of migrants in an irregular situation

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019c).
 Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019).

Figure III.5. Percentage of Governments that provide non-nationals equal access to services, welfare benefits and rights by legal immigration status and region, 2019



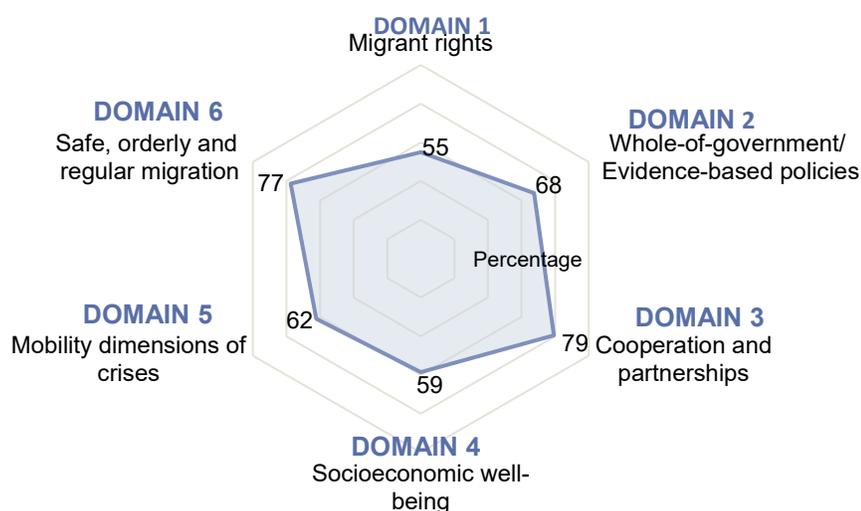
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019c).

Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019).

Box III.1. SDG indicator 10.7.2. Number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

Globally, 54 per cent of Governments that replied to the migration module of the Twelfth Inquiry met or fully met the criteria of the indicator; defined as having policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people for 80 per cent or more of the 30 sub-categories under the six domains of the indicator. More than three-quarters of Governments met the criteria for domain 3 “Cooperation and partnerships” (79 per cent) or domain 6 “Safe, orderly and regular migration” (77 per cent) (figure III.6). Further, 68 per cent of Governments met or fully met the criteria for domain 2 “Whole-of-government or evidence-based policies”, followed by 62 per cent for domain 5 “Mobility dimensions of crises”. Globally, domain 1 “Migrant rights” and domain 4 “Socioeconomic well-being” had the lowest proportion of Governments reporting a wide range of policy measures: 55 per cent and 59 per cent, respectively.

Figure III.6. Percentage of Governments that report having policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people by domain, 2019



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019).

Notes: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019). Data refer to countries that meet or fully meet the criteria for indicator 10.7.2 (reported having migration policy measures for 80 per cent or more of the five sub-categories in each domain). Of the countries that provided data, 20 per cent or more have item non-response for domain 4 of SDG indicator 10.7.2 of 10 per cent or more.

Governments’ measures to promote equal pay for equal work or provide social security on par with nationals were somewhat less prevalent. Eighty-five per cent of Governments indicated that they had measures to ensure equal payment of salary and benefits to all people in the same work place doing similar work, and of these 39 per cent were regardless of legal immigration status. Similarly, 84 per cent of Governments had measures to provide non-nationals equal access to social security programmes, including contributory and non-contributory pension schemes (old age, survivor, disability), unemployment insurance, health insurance, workers’ compensation, sickness benefits and basic social assistance. Twenty-two per cent of Governments indicated that they provided access to social security to non-nationals regardless of their immigration status and 62 per cent only to those with legal immigration status. Country responses appear to differ in their interpretation of concepts related to social

security, with some focusing on access to pensions and others on a range of social protection mechanisms and benefits.

In terms of regions, Central and Southern Asia**, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia*, and Europe and Northern America had the highest proportion of Governments providing access to essential or emergency health care in 2019 (100 per cent each). All Governments in those regions also reported providing public education to migrants. Central and Southern Asia** had the highest proportion of Governments promoting equal payment of salary and benefits to all people in the same work place doing similar work, irrespective of their migration status (100 per cent). All countries in Central and Southern Asia**, and in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* reported that they ensured equal access to justice for migrants, while Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* had the highest share of Governments reporting provisions related to social security (100 per cent).

2. Integration of immigrants

Appropriate integration and inclusion policies, with reference to access to education, health care and language training, as well as access to justice, are essential to protect migrant rights, to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development of the country of destination, and to contribute to the well-being of migrants themselves. In 2019, 77 per cent of Governments reported having policies aimed at promoting the inclusion and integration of migrants. Central and Southern Asia** had the highest proportion of Governments reporting policy measures to promote migrant integration (100 per cent), followed by Europe and Northern America (94 per cent), and Latin America and the Caribbean* (93 per cent). However, gaps remain. One-quarter of the countries where international migrants comprised 10 per cent or more of the total population in 2019, did not have an explicit national policy or strategy to promote the inclusion or integration of migrants.

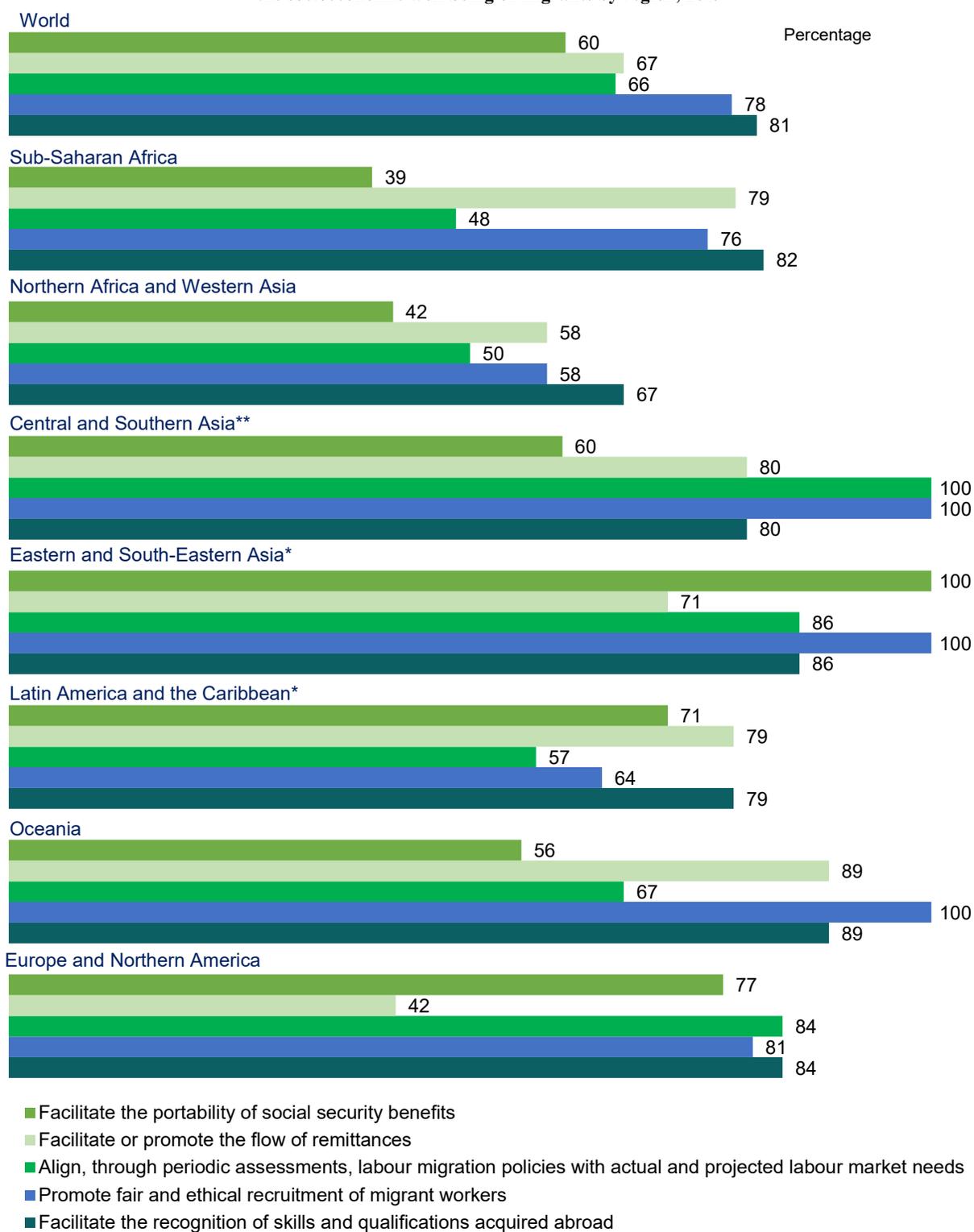
D. POLICY MEASURES RELATED TO MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Development impacts of migration

Measures to promote the socioeconomic well-being of migrants are essential for maximizing the positive development impact of migration. In recent years, many countries have adopted migration policies as part of their national strategies and development plans. Yet available data show gaps in the use of such measures (figure III.7). Globally, 81 per cent of Governments in 2019 reported having policies to facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad, meaning that they had formalized criteria (accreditation) for recognizing foreign qualifications such as degrees, skills and competencies acquired abroad. Seventy-eight per cent of Governments indicated that they had measures to promote fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers. Promoting fair and ethical recruitment entails combatting abusive and fraudulent recruitment practices including deception about the nature and conditions of work, retention of passports, illegal wage deductions, debt bondage linked to repayment of recruitment fees, threats to workers who want to leave their employers, and instilling fears of subsequent expulsion.

Remittances enable households at the lower end of the income distribution to invest in education or in assets that increase their productivity, and enable poorer households to overcome liquidity and opportunity constraints. Sixty-seven per cent of Governments indicated that they had measures to facilitate or promote the flow of remittances through specific policy measures, meaning that they had one or more government programmes to reduce the transaction costs of remittances, increase the availability of remittance services, improve the conditions under which remittances are sent, or support financial literacy and inclusion so that remittances are better used. Among countries for which remittances represented 5 per cent or more of GDP, 80 per cent of Governments reported having policies to facilitate or promote remittance flows, compared with 64 per cent when remittances are less than 5 per cent of GDP.

Figure III.7. Percentage of Governments reporting policy measures to maximize the positive development impact of migration and the socioeconomic well-being of migrants by region, 2019



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019c).
 Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019).

Measures to align labour migration policies with actual and projected labour market needs were reported by 66 per cent of Governments providing data. Sixty per cent of Governments had measures to facilitate the portability of social security benefits, signifying that they had an agreement with at least one other country on the portability of at least one type of social security benefit.

Among all regions, Oceania had the highest proportion of Governments reporting policies to facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad (89 per cent), followed by Europe and Northern America (84 per cent). All Governments in Central and Southern Asia**, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia*, and Oceania reported having measures to promote fair and ethical recruitment. Oceania also had the highest proportion of Governments with measures to facilitate the flow of remittances (89 per cent). Measures to align labour migration policies with actual and projected labour market needs were most prevalent among Governments in Central and Southern Asia** (100 per cent), while measures to facilitate the portability of social security benefits were most frequently reported by Governments in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* (100 per cent).

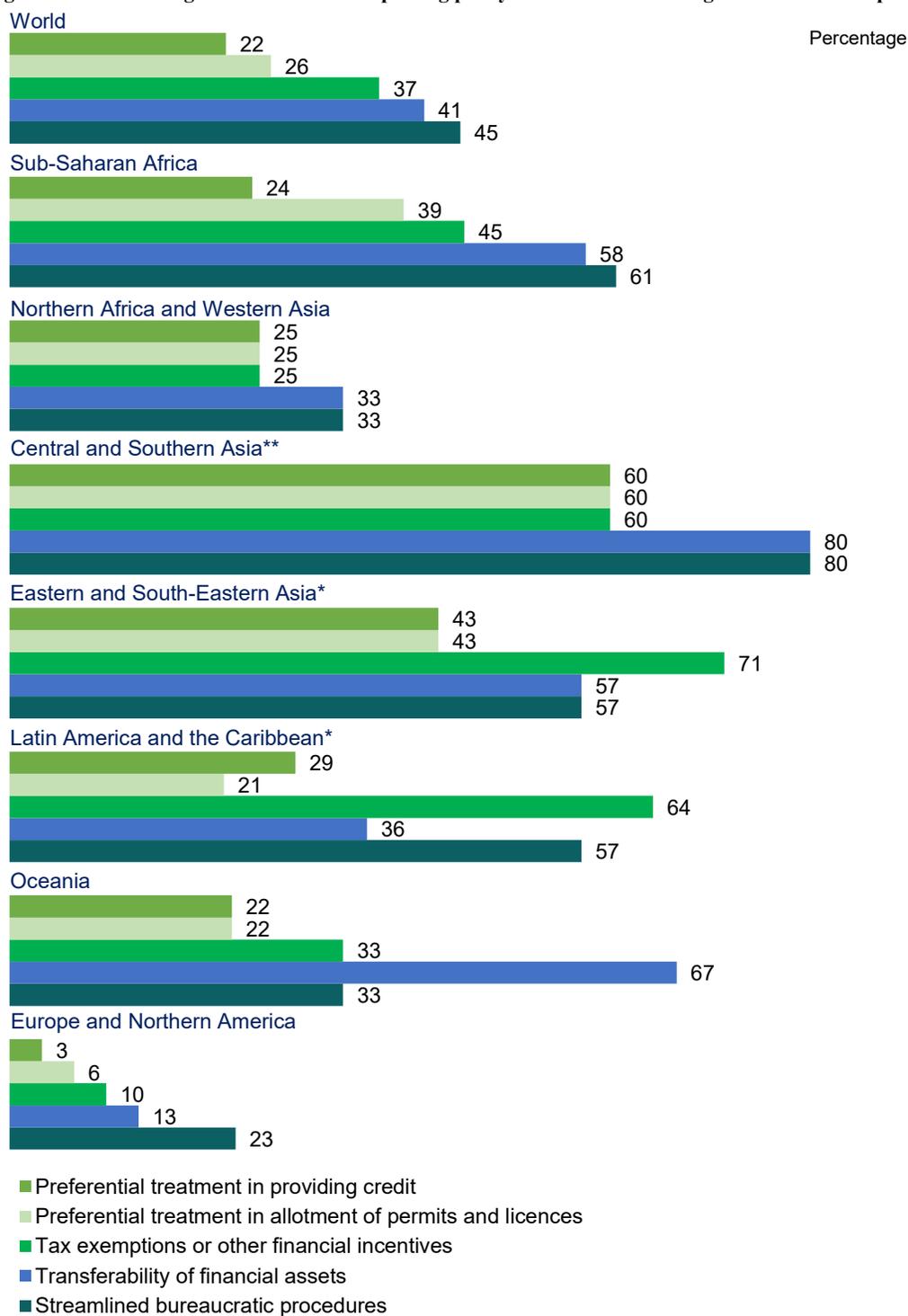
2. Measures to support diaspora investment

Diasporas are broadly defined as individuals and members of networks, associations and communities, who have left their country of origin, but maintain links with their homelands. They include more settled expatriate communities, migrant workers living abroad, expatriates with the nationality of the host country, dual nationals and second- or third-generation migrants. Globally, 73 per cent of Governments in 2019 reported having a dedicated Government unit, department or ministry for diaspora engagement, citizens abroad or overseas employment. Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest proportion of Governments reporting such a dedicated unit (91 per cent), followed by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* (86 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean* (79 per cent).

Many governments have implemented policy measures to encourage investment by their diaspora, by providing financial incentives and facilitating the transfer of remittances. In 2019, half (54 per cent) of Governments had instituted one or more policy measures to encourage investment by their diaspora. Forty-five per cent of Governments reported having streamlined bureaucratic procedures to facilitate diaspora investment or return of citizens (figure III.8), while 41 per cent permitted the transfer of financial assets. Thirty-seven per cent of Governments indicated that they had tax exemptions or provided other financial incentives specifically to their diaspora or to promote return; 26 per cent gave their diaspora preferential treatment in allotment of permits or licences; while 22 per cent offered preferential treatment in providing credit.

Central and Southern Asia** had the highest proportion of Governments (80 per cent) reporting streamlined bureaucratic procedures for supporting their transnational communities, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (61 per cent). Measures to promote the transferability of financial assets were most widely reported in Central and Southern Asia** and in Oceania (80 per cent and 67 per cent of Governments respectively). Eastern and South-Eastern Asia* (71 per cent), Latin American and the Caribbean (64 per cent) and Central and Southern Asia** (60 per cent) had large proportions of Governments that reported offering tax exemptions or other financial incentives to their diaspora. Central and Southern Asia** had the highest proportion of Governments reporting preferential treatment in providing credit or in the allotment of permits and licences to their diaspora (60 per cent each).

Figure III.8. Percentage of Governments reporting policy measures to encourage or facilitate diaspora investment, 2019



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (United Nations, 2019c).

Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019).

ANNEX TABLE III.1. PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENTS WITH POLICY MEASURES CONCERNING THE ANNUAL LEVEL OF IMMIGRATION, EMIGRATION AND RETURN BY REGION, 2019

	<i>Immigration</i>			<i>Emigration</i>		<i>Return</i>	
	<i>Regular channels</i>	<i>Highly-skilled workers</i>	<i>Family reunification</i>	<i>Citizens</i>	<i>Highly-skilled workers</i>	<i>Citizens living abroad</i>	<i>Migrants to their countries of origin</i>
<i>World</i>							
No policy or no data	34	37	42	59	56	47	48
Lower	3	5	6	20	25	1	4
Maintain	26	19	31	13	10	19	25
Raise	37	40	21	8	9	33	23
<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>							
No policy or no data	48	58	64	55	55	48	55
Lower	0	9	3	21	33	0	3
Maintain	15	6	18	18	12	9	18
Raise	36	27	15	6	0	42	24
<i>Northern Africa and Western Asia</i>							
No policy or no data	58	50	50	83	67	67	58
Lower	0	0	0	17	25	0	0
Maintain	25	17	33	0	0	8	25
Raise	17	33	17	0	8	25	17
<i>Central and Southern Asia</i>							
No policy or no data	20	20	60	40	20	20	40
Lower	0	0	0	20	40	0	0
Maintain	20	20	0	20	20	40	40
Raise	60	60	40	20	20	40	20
<i>Eastern and South-Eastern Asia</i>							
No policy or no data	14	0	57	43	43	29	29
Lower	0	0	0	14	14	0	14
Maintain	29	29	14	0	0	57	14
Raise	57	71	29	43	43	14	43
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>							
No policy or no data	21	71	29	64	64	43	64
Lower	0	0	0	21	14	0	0
Maintain	29	7	36	14	21	36	29
Raise	50	21	36	0	0	21	7
<i>Oceania</i>							
No policy or no data	22	11	22	67	44	56	44
Lower	0	22	22	0	22	0	0
Maintain	44	33	33	11	11	22	44
Raise	33	33	22	22	22	22	11
<i>Europe and Northern America</i>							
No policy or no data	26	13	23	58	61	45	35
Lower	10	0	13	26	23	3	6
Maintain	32	32	48	13	6	13	26
Raise	32	55	16	3	10	39	32

ANNEX TABLE III.2. PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENTS BY MAJOR UNDERLYING REASONS FOR SETTING CURRENT MIGRATION POLICIES BY REGION, 2019

	<i>Counter long-term population decline</i>	<i>Address population ageing</i>	<i>Meet labour demands in certain sectors of the economy</i>	<i>Safeguard employment opportunities for nationals</i>	<i>Retain specific categories of workers</i>	<i>Retain the status quo on social and ethnic diversity</i>
World						
Immigration policy	27	34	68	55	44	29
Emigration policy	27	20	15	15	23	10
<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>						
Immigration policy	24	39	55	55	48	42
Emigration policy	30	18	15	18	33	21
<i>Northern Africa and Western Asia</i>						
Immigration policy	8	0	33	33	33	8
Emigration policy	25	17	17	8	17	0
<i>Central and Southern Asia</i>						
Immigration policy	20	20	60	80	60	60
Emigration policy	0	0	20	40	40	20
<i>Eastern and South-Eastern Asia</i>						
Immigration policy	0	0	86	71	29	43
Emigration policy	29	14	29	29	29	14
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>						
Immigration policy	36	43	50	43	36	21
Emigration policy	14	14	14	7	29	7
<i>Oceania</i>						
Immigration policy	11	33	100	78	89	67
Emigration policy	56	44	11	22	11	11
<i>Europe and Northern America</i>						
Immigration policy	45	48	90	55	35	6
Emigration policy	26	23	13	10	10	0

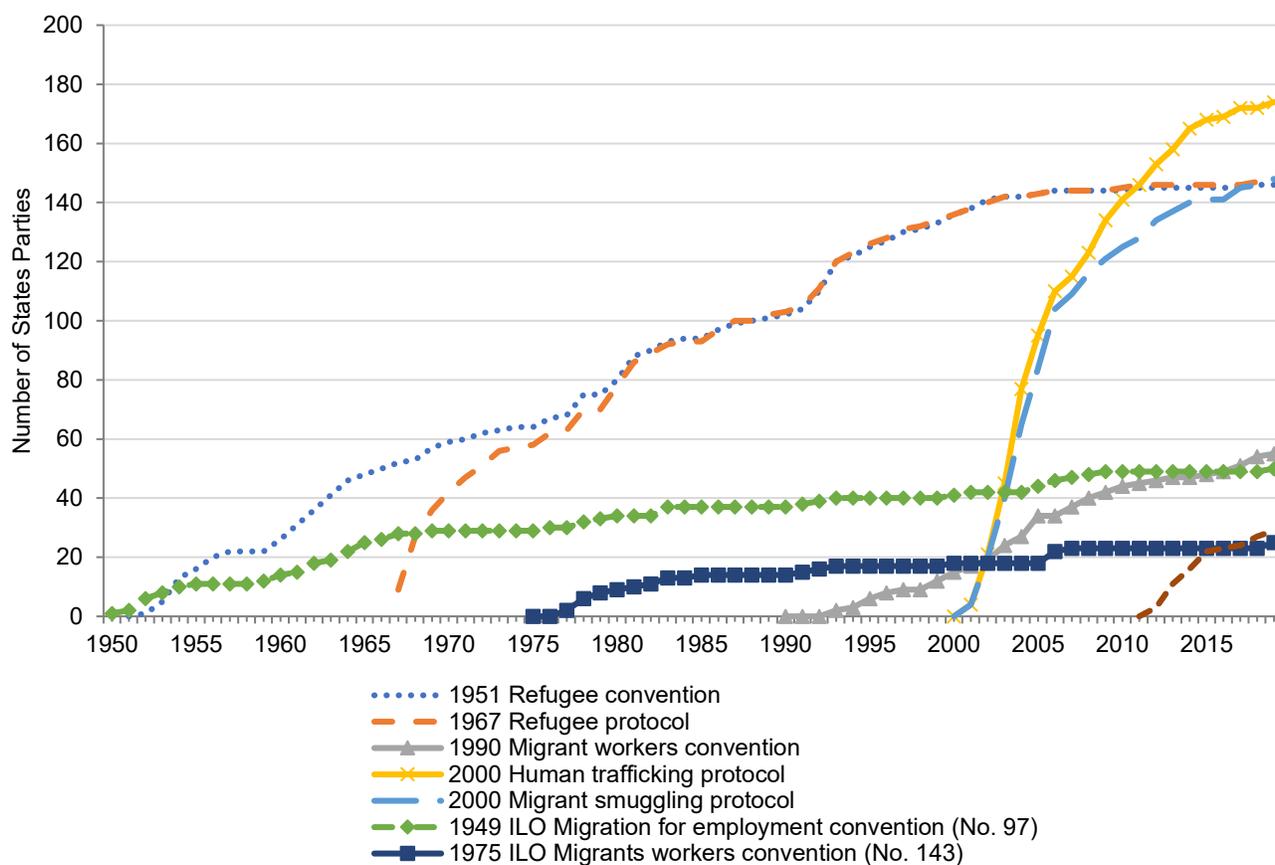
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IV. LEGAL AND NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The normative framework for international migration includes legal instruments pertaining to the human rights of all migrants, the rights of migrant workers and members of their families and the protection of refugees, as well as instruments designed to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the recently adopted global compacts relating to migration and refugees also contribute to the normative framework on international migration.

The legal instruments related to international migration have been ratified in varying degrees by the Member States of the United Nations (figure IV.1). As of October 2019, instruments designed to protect refugees or to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking had been ratified by more than three quarters of the Member States, whereas instruments protecting the rights of migrant workers had been ratified by less than 30 per cent of the Member States (table IV.1).

Figure IV.1. status of ratification of legal instruments related to international migration, 1950-2019



Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>, accessed 21 October 2019); NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards (<http://www.ilo.org/normlex>, accessed 21 October 2019).

Note: Does not include ratifications by the European Union.

TABLE IV.1. STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Year of entry into force</i>	<i>Parties to legal instruments</i>	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage¹</i>
Refugees			
1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees	1954	146	75
1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees	1967	147	75
Migrant Workers			
1949 ILO Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised 1949) (No. 97)	1952	50	27
1975 ILO Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) (No. 143)	1978	25	13
1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	2003	55	28
2011 ILO Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (No. 189)	2013	29	16
Smuggling and Trafficking			
2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children ²	2003	174	89
2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air ²	2004	148	76

Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>, accessed 21 October 2019); NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards (<http://www.ilo.org/normlex>, accessed 21 October 2019).

¹ Of 193 Member States of the United Nations plus 2 non-member observer States, or of 187 member States of the International Labour Organization.

² Does not include ratifications by the European Union.

Ratification rates of all legal instruments related to international migration were higher for countries in more developed regions than in less developed regions, except for the 1990 convention on migrant workers and members of their families (table IV.2). By region, ratification rates of legal instruments were generally higher in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and sub-Saharan Africa than in other regions. The Philippines was the only country that had ratified all eight legal instruments, whereas ten United Nations Member States were yet to ratify any legal instrument related to international migration.⁸

⁸ Andorra, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Pakistan, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

TABLE IV.2. RATES OF RATIFICATION OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND REGION (PERCENTAGE)

Development group/region	Parties to United Nations instruments ¹					Parties to ILO instruments ²		
	1951 Refugee Convention	1967 Refugee Protocol	1990 Migrant Workers Convention	2000 Human Trafficking Protocol ³	2000 Migrant Smuggling Protocol ³	1949 Migration for Employment Convention (No. 97)	1975 Migrant Workers Convention (No. 143)	2011 Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189)
More developed regions	94	96	4	96	92	38	24	18
Less developed regions	68	68	36	87	71	23	10	15
Sub-Saharan Africa	92	92	42	90	79	19	19	8
Northern Africa and Western Asia	50	50	29	96	71	22	9	0
Central and Southern Asia	43	43	29	71	43	15	8	0
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	38	38	19	88	56	13	7	7
Latin America and The Caribbean	82	82	55	100	91	45	3	48
Oceania	57	57	7	50	43	8	0	0
Europe	95	95	5	95	91	40	28	20
Northern America	50	100	0	100	100	0	0	0

Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>, accessed 21 October 2019); NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards (<http://www.ilo.org/normlex>, accessed 21 October 2019).

¹ Of 193 Member States of the United Nations plus 2 non-member observer States.

² Of 187 Member States of the International Labour Organization.

³ Does not include ratifications by the European Union.

A. REFUGEES

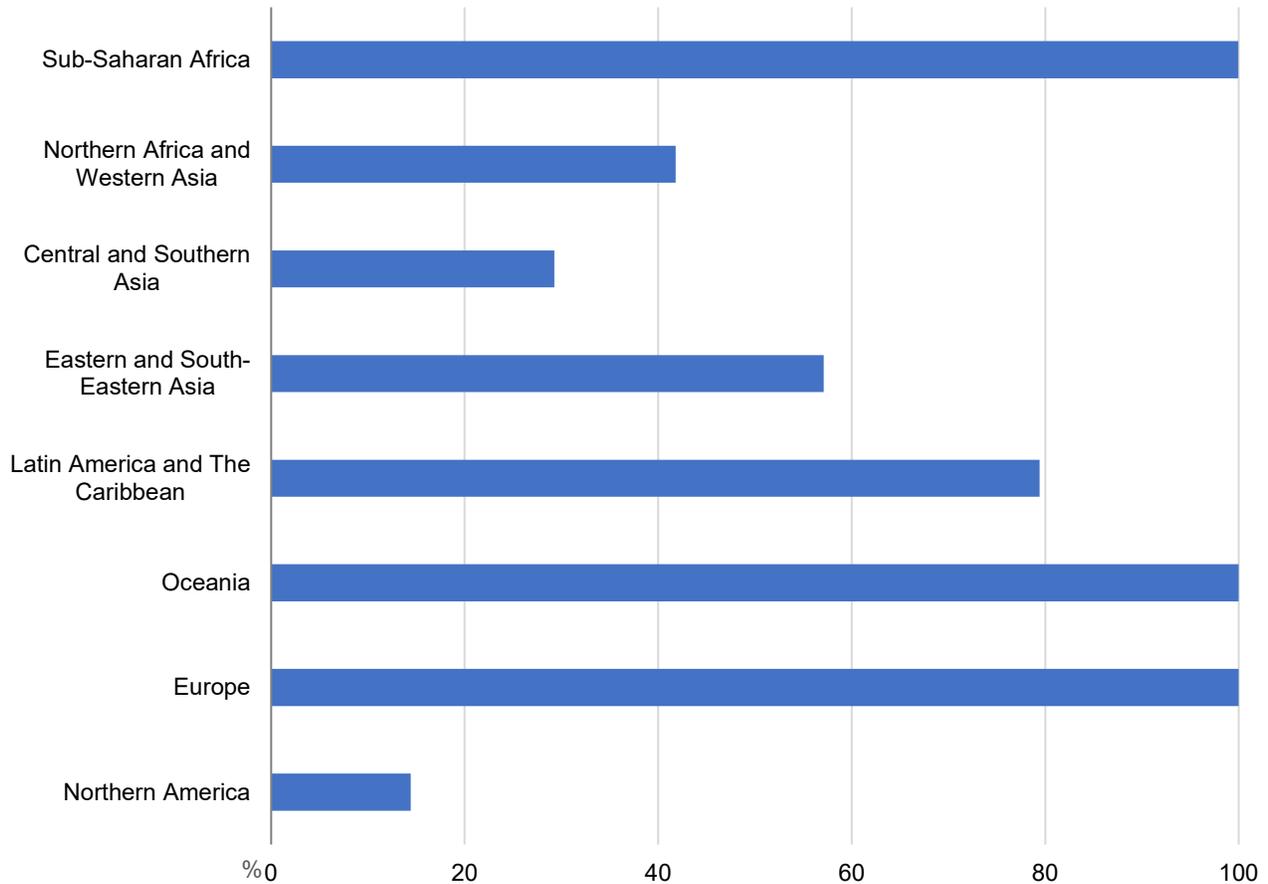
The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees are key legal instruments at the international level to ensure protection of rights of refugees. The 1951 Convention enumerates the rights of refugees and establishes the legal obligation of Member States to protect refugees. The 1951 Convention prohibits the expulsion or forcible return of refugees and asylum seekers. In accordance with the principle of “non-refoulement”, a person cannot be returned to a country or territory in which his or her life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, social affiliation or political opinion.

The 1967 Protocol extended the application of the 1951 Convention to persons who became refugees after 1 January 1951, without any geographic limitation.

As of October 2019, the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol had been ratified by 146 and 147 United Nations Member States, respectively, with 144 State Parties having ratified both instruments. In 2018, South Sudan became the latest country to ratify both instruments. All refugees in sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Europe resided in countries that had ratified both instruments relating to the status of refugees (figure IV.2). On the other hand, the

majority of refugees in Northern Africa and Western Asia, Central and Southern Asia, and Northern America resided in countries that had not ratified these instruments.

Figure IV.2. Percentage of refugees residing in countries that ratified both the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees



Sources: Calculations based on *International Migrant Stock 2019* (United Nations, 2019a); United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>, accessed 21 October 2019).

B. MIGRANT WORKERS

Box IV.1. Who is a migrant worker?

The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines a migrant worker as an “international migrant individual of working age and older who are either employed or unemployed in their current country of residence”. This term is a subset of international migrant.

The ILO (2018) estimated that 6 of every 10 international migrants were migrant workers in 2017. Only 4 of every 10 migrant workers were women. Around 68 per cent of migrant workers resided in high income countries. Prime-age adults (ages 25-64) dominated the composition of migrant workers (87 per cent).

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has adopted three legally-binding instruments that are directly relevant for the protection of migrant workers: the Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions), 1975 (No. 143), and the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, 2011 (No. 189). All three ILO instruments have complementary non-binding recommendations.

The 1949 ILO Convention (No. 97) covers recruitment and promotes standards regarding the working conditions of migrant workers. It establishes the principle of equal treatment of migrant workers

and nationals with regard to laws, regulations and administrative practices concerning living and working conditions, remuneration, social security, employment, taxes and access to justice.

The 1975 ILO Convention (No. 143) was the first multilateral attempt to address irregular migration and to call for sanctions against traffickers of human beings. It emphasized that Member States are obliged to respect the basic human rights of all migrant workers, including irregular migrants. It also provided that lawfully present migrant workers and their families are entitled not only to equal treatment but also to equality of opportunity, such as equal access to employment and occupation, the right to join trade unions, cultural rights, and individual and collective freedoms.

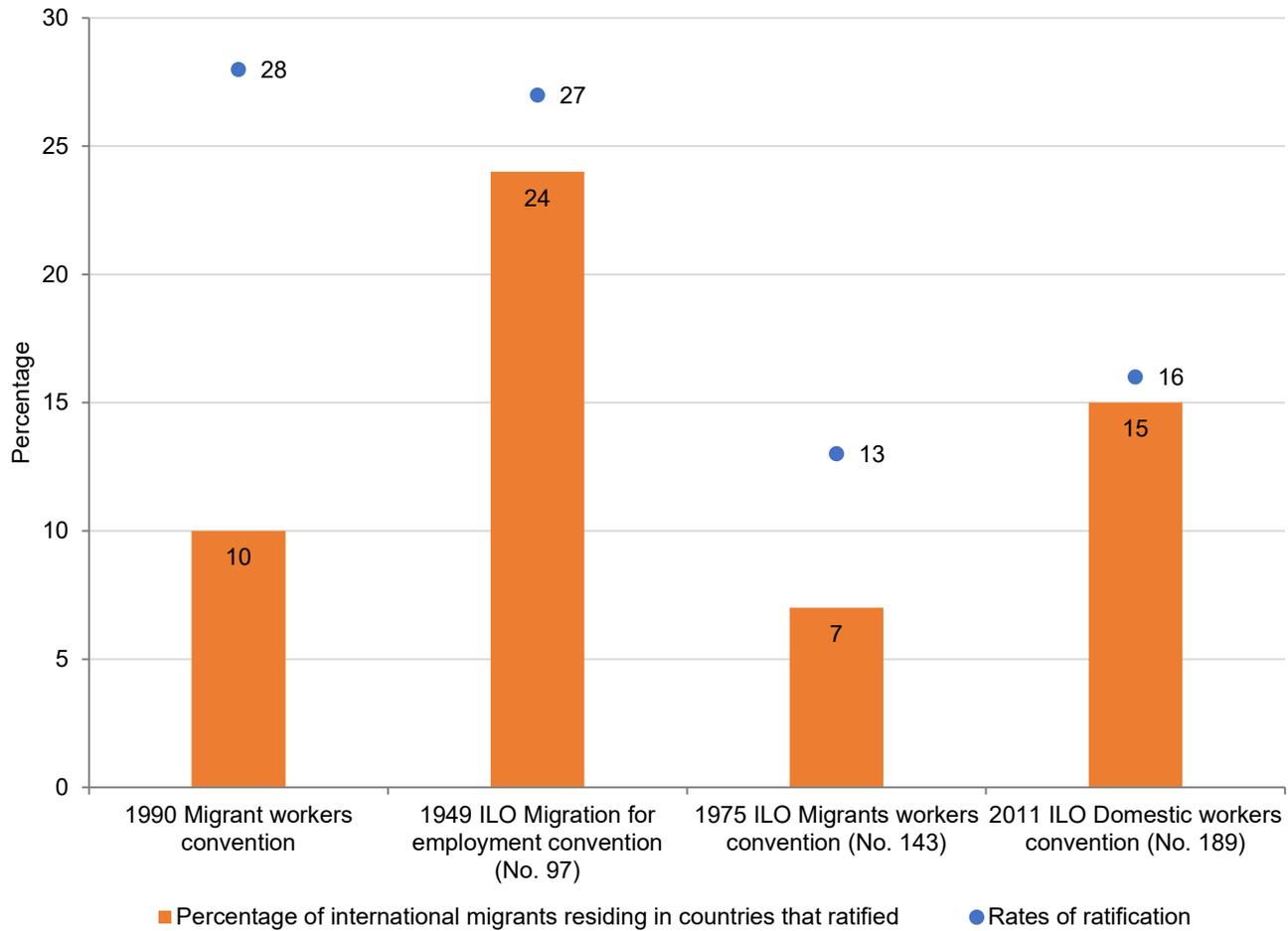
The 2011 ILO Convention (No. 189) was the first multilateral legal instrument to establish global labour standards for domestic workers, guaranteeing them the same basic rights as other workers. It established that domestic workers, regardless of their migration status, have the same basic labour rights as other workers, including reasonable hours of work, a limit on payment in-kind and clear information on the terms and conditions of employment. Employers of domestic workers must respect their fundamental principles and rights at work, including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which entered into force in 2003, is the most comprehensive international treaty on migrant rights. It establishes international definitions for categories of migrant workers and formalizes the responsibility of States Parties in upholding the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.

As of October 2019, 55 Member States had ratified the 1990 Convention, collectively hosting about 10 per cent of the global migrant population (figure IV.3). The 1975 ILO Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers had been ratified by only 25 Member States, hosting only about 7 per cent of the global migrant population. The latest ILO Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers had been ratified by 29 Member States, hosting about 20 per cent

of the global migrant population. Only 4 of 187 ILO Member States had ratified all three ILO legal instruments concerning migrant workers.⁹

Figure IV.3. Rates of ratification and percentage of international migrants residing in countries that ratified Conventions relating to migrant workers



Sources: Calculations based on International Migrant Stock 2019 (United Nations, 2019a); United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>, accessed 21 October 2019).

⁹ Madagascar, Italy, the Philippines and Portugal.

C. SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING

Box IV.2. What is human trafficking and migrant smuggling?

The 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children defines human trafficking as “the acquisition of people by improper means, such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them”.

The 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air defines smuggling of migrants as an activity that “involves the procurement, for sake of financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State of which the person is not a national or permanent resident.”

The two protocols seeking to stem irregular migration concern human trafficking and migrant smuggling, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, to protect and assist victims of such trafficking, in particular women and children, to prosecute perpetrators of such crimes, and to promote cooperation among States Parties.

The 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air seeks to combat and prevent the smuggling of “human cargo”. It reaffirms that migration in and of itself is not a crime, and that migrants may be victims in need of protection.

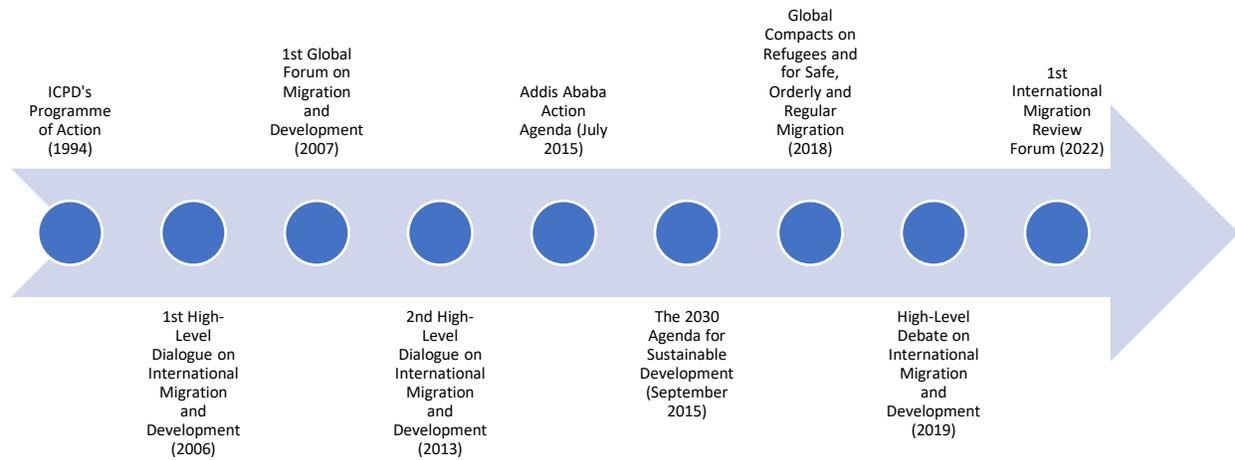
As of October 2019, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children had been ratified by 174 Member States; and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air had been ratified by 148 Member States. There has been a rapid increase in the ratification of the protocols relating to human trafficking and migrant smuggling, reflecting a growing concern among Member States about the linkages between transnational organized crime in irregular migration.

D. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The inclusion of international migration in the United Nations development agenda has evolved over a long period (figure IV.4). Early discussions on international migration, mostly within the context of overall population dynamics, occurred in the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest and the 1984 International Population Conference in Mexico City. The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo was the first intergovernmental conference to adopt comprehensive, negotiated text on international migration.

Subsequent United Nations conferences and summits have affirmed the need to uphold the human rights of international migrants, respect labour standards for migrant workers, enhance the contributions of international migration to development, address the challenges associated with migration and strengthen international cooperation on migration.

Figure IV.4. Timeline of key events related to international migration at the United Nations



Box IV.3. Migration in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

In the Declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Member States unanimously:

Recognized the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Recognized that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses.

Agreed to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons.

Recognized that international cooperation to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration should also strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries.

Underlined the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recalled that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received.

While the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted in the year 2000, largely ignored the role of international migration in setting the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stressed the critical role and multidimensional aspects of international migration for global development. The introduction of the 2030 Agenda explicitly confirms the relevance of international migration for global development by calling on Member States to strengthen international cooperation to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with full respect for human rights and for the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status, and of refugees and internally displaced persons (box IV.4).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has 17 overarching Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, of which eight targets include references to issues directly pertaining to international migration (table IV.3). These SDG targets can be grouped into three categories. First, targets that are related to migration governance. Target 10.7 is the most migration-governance-specific SDG target. It aims to facilitate orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Target 8.8 acknowledges the rights and protections of migrant workers. Meanwhile, to promote data-driven and well-informed migration governance, target 17.18 calls for greater capacity of developing countries to provide disaggregated data, including by migration status.

TABLE IV.3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGETS WITH DIRECT RELATION TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

<i>Migration governance related</i>	
10.7	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
17.18	By 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing support to developing countries, including for least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
<i>Migration and development related</i>	
10.c	By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.
4.b.	By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries in particular least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology (ICT), technical, engineering and scientific programmes in developed countries and other developing countries.
<i>Trafficking related</i>	
5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
8.7	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.
16.2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

The second group of SDG targets is related to migration and development. As SDGs recognize the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development, target 10.c explicitly requires the global community to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent by 2030. Furthermore, the potential of “brain gain” and human capital accumulation stemming from migrants are recognized in target 4.b, which calls for substantial expansion of scholarship support for migrants from developing countries for enrolment in higher education in developed countries and other developing countries.

The third group of targets addresses human trafficking issues. Target 5.2 calls for Member States to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. Target 8.7 calls for immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of child labour. Finally, target 16.2 calls for ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children.

It is important to note, however, that the multidimensional reality of international migration means that many SDG targets that do not explicitly include migration-related language may also relate to migration issues. For instance, target 3.c calls for Member States not only to increase the health financing, recruitment, development and training of the health workforce in developing countries, but also the retention of this health workforce that relates to the “brain drain” issue. Another example is target 16.9 that calls for providing legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030. It means migrants should be accorded the same provision of legal identities. Since migration is an intrinsic part of development, it also relates to other SDG targets beyond those mentioned, such as poverty, productivity and climate change.

The follow-up, review and implementation of migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda are critical for achieving the SDGs. The annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been the main intergovernmental platform to review progress in the implementation

of the SDGs, including migration-related goals and targets. In addition, forums and events under the auspices of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), as well as those organized by the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), have been key mechanisms for monitoring progress on migration-related goals and targets. Furthermore, the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, jointly with the International Organization for Migration, is leading efforts to track and monitor target 10.7 (more specifically, indicator 10.7.2 on number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people) using the repurposed United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development .

E. GLOBAL COMPACTS ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEES

In December 2018, two global compacts related to international migration were adopted by a large majority of the United Nations Member States. Of 193 Member States, 152 voted in favour of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, while 181 voted in favour of the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees. The two global compacts provide the blueprints for governments and all stakeholders to ensure more effective cooperative and collective efforts concerning international migration.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was a milestone in the history of the global dialogue and international cooperation on migration. It presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework that fosters international cooperation among all relevant actors on migration while acknowledging that no State can address migration alone, and upholds the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law. The Global Compact for Migration recognizes that migration has been a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in the world and that these positive impacts can be optimized by improving migration governance. It sets out “common understanding”, “shared responsibilities”, and “unity of purpose” for making migration work for all. It commits to address the special needs of migrants in vulnerable situations. The Global Compact for Migration establishes 23 objectives, each of which contains a commitment, followed by a range of actions deemed to be relevant policy instruments and best practices.

The Global Compact on Refugees established a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, recognizing that international cooperation is key to achieving sustainable solutions to refugee situations. It aims to benefit both refugees and the communities that host them. The Global Compact on Refugees has four key objectives: to ease the pressures on countries hosting refugees; to enhance self-reliance of refugees; to expand access to third-country solutions; and to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. It includes the guiding principles, the programme of action, and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

Countries that voted in favour of the Global Compact for Migration, collectively hosted around 181 million international migrants in 2019 (67 per cent of the total international migrant stock). Meanwhile, the 181 countries that voted in favour of the Global Compact on Refugees hosted around 25 million refugees (89 per cent of the global refugee population).

Following the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration, the Member States agreed that the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development shall be repurposed and renamed as the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). It shall serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact for Migration at the local, national, regional and global levels, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders with a view to building upon accomplishments and identifying opportunities for further cooperation. It is expected that each edition of the IMRF will result in an

intergovernmentally-agreed Progress Declaration to be considered by the HLPF on Sustainable Development. Starting in 2022, the IMRF will take place once every four years.

TABLE IV.4. STATUS OF GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION AND GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

Instrument	Year of Vote	Parties to international instruments		International Migrants, 2019		Refugees, 2017	
		Number	Percentage ¹	Number of international migrants in countries that voted yes (thousands)	International migrants in countries that voted yes as a share of total international migrants (percentage)	Number of refugees in countries that voted yes (thousands)	Refugees in countries that voted yes as a share of total refugees (percentage)
Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	2018	152	78	181,465	67	24,414	85
Global Compact on Refugees	2018	181	93	211,184	78	25,440	89

Sources: United Nations Digital Library (<http://digitallibrary.un.org>, accessed 21 October 2019).

¹ Of 193 Member States of the United Nations plus 2 non-member observer States.

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ANNEX

Classification of countries or areas by region

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			
<i>Eastern Africa</i>	<i>Middle Africa</i>	<i>Western Africa</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>
Burundi	Angola	Benin	Botswana
Comoros	Cameroon	Burkina Faso	Eswatini
Djibouti	Central African Republic	Cabo Verde	Lesotho
Eritrea	Chad	Côte d'Ivoire	Namibia
Ethiopia	Congo	Gambia	South Africa
Kenya	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ghana	
Madagascar		Guinea	
Malawi	Equatorial Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	
Mauritius ¹⁰	Gabon	Liberia	
Mayotte	Sao Tome and Principe	Mali	
Mozambique		Mauritania	
Réunion		Niger	
Rwanda		Nigeria	
Seychelles		Saint Helena ¹¹	
Somalia		Senegal	
South Sudan		Sierra Leone	
Uganda		Togo	
United Republic of Tanzania ¹²			
Zambia			
Zimbabwe			

NORTHERN AFRICA AND WESTERN ASIA	
<i>Northern Africa</i>	<i>Western Asia</i>
Algeria	Armenia
Egypt	Azerbaijan ¹³
Libya	Bahrain
Morocco	Cyprus ¹⁴
Sudan	Georgia ¹⁵
Tunisia	Iraq
Western Sahara	Israel
	Jordan
	Kuwait
	Lebanon
	Oman
	Qatar
	Saudi Arabia
	State of Palestine ¹⁶
	Syrian Arab Republic
	Turkey
	United Arab Emirates
	Yemen

¹⁰ Including Agalega, Rodrigues and Saint Brandon.

¹¹ Including Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

¹² Including Zanzibar.

¹³ Including Nagorno-Karabakh.

¹⁴ Including Northern-Cyprus.

¹⁵ Including Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

¹⁶ Including East Jerusalem. Refugees are not part of the foreign-born migrant stock in the State of Palestine.

Classification of countries or areas by region (continued)

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ASIA	
<i>Central Asia</i>	<i>Southern Asia</i>
Kazakhstan	Afghanistan
Kyrgyzstan	Bangladesh
Tajikistan	Bhutan
Turkmenistan	India
Uzbekistan	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
	Maldives
	Nepal
	Pakistan
	Sri Lanka

EASTERN AND SOUTH-EASTERN ASIA	
<i>Eastern Asia</i>	<i>South-Eastern Asia</i>
China ¹⁷	Brunei Darussalam
China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ¹⁸	Cambodia
China, Macao Special Administrative Region ¹⁹	Indonesia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Japan	Malaysia ²⁰
Mongolia	Myanmar
Republic of Korea	Philippines
	Singapore
	Thailand
	Timor-Leste
	Viet Nam

¹⁷ For statistical purposes, the data for China do not include Hong Kong and Macao, Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of China.

¹⁸ As of 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.

¹⁹ As of 20 December 1999, Macao became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.

²⁰ Including Sabah and Sarawak.

Classification of countries or areas by region (continued)

EUROPE			
<i>Eastern Europe</i>	<i>Northern Europe</i>	<i>Southern Europe</i>	<i>Western Europe</i>
Belarus	Channel Islands ²¹	Albania	Austria
Bulgaria	Denmark	Andorra	Belgium
Czechia	Estonia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	France
Hungary	Faeroe Islands	Croatia	Germany
Poland	Finland ²²	Gibraltar	Liechtenstein
Republic of Moldova ²³	Iceland	Greece	Luxembourg
Romania	Ireland	Holy See ²⁴	Monaco
Russian Federation	Isle of Man	Italy	Netherlands
Slovakia	Latvia	Malta	Switzerland
Ukraine ²⁵	Lithuania	Montenegro	
	Norway ²⁶	North Macedonia	
	Sweden	Portugal	
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ²⁷	San Marino	
		Serbia ²⁸	
		Slovenia	
		Spain ²⁹	

NORTHERN AMERICA
Bermuda
Canada
Greenland
Saint Pierre and Miquelon
United States of America

²¹ Refers to Guernsey and Jersey.

²² Including Åland Islands.

²³ Including Transnistria.

²⁴ Refers to the Vatican City State.

²⁵ Including Crimea.

²⁶ Including Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands.

²⁷ Also referred to as United Kingdom.

²⁸ Including Kosovo. The estimates of migrant stock for 2000 refer to Serbia and Montenegro.

²⁹ Including Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.

Classification of countries or areas by region (continued)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN			
<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>Central America</i>	<i>South America</i>	
Anguilla		Belize	Argentina
Antigua and Barbuda		Costa Rica	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Aruba		El Salvador	Brazil
Bahamas		Guatemala	Chile
Barbados		Honduras	Colombia
British Virgin Islands		Mexico	Ecuador
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba ³⁰		Nicaragua	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ³¹
Cayman Islands		Panama	French Guiana
Cuba			Guyana
Curaçao			Paraguay
Dominica			Peru
Dominican Republic			Suriname
Grenada			Uruguay
Guadeloupe ³²			Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Haiti			
Jamaica			
Martinique			
Montserrat			
Puerto Rico			
Saint Kitts and Nevis			
Saint Lucia			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)			
Trinidad and Tobago			
Turks and Caicos Islands			
United States Virgin Islands			

OCEANIA			
<i>Australia and New Zealand</i>	<i>Melanesia</i>	<i>Micronesia</i>	<i>Polynesia</i> ³³
Australia ³⁴	Fiji	Guam	American Samoa
New Zealand	New Caledonia	Kiribati	Cook Islands
	Papua New Guinea	Marshall Islands	French Polynesia
	Solomon Islands	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Niue
	Vanuatu	Nauru	Samoa
		Northern Mariana Islands	Tokelau
		Palau	Tonga
			Tuvalu
			Wallis and Futuna Islands

³⁰ The estimates for migrant stock 2000 refer to the former Netherlands Antilles.

³¹ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

³² Including Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin (French part).

³³ Including Pitcairn.

³⁴ Including Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Norfolk Island.

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