Adoption of the New York Declaration

As a working member of the Global Migration Group, UNU-GCM celebrates the adoption on September 19th 2016 of the New York Declaration by all 193 Member States that seeks to make positive differences to the lives of refugees and migrants. Countries agreed to protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of their status. Governments will begin further negotiations to adopt a comprehensive framework for the governance of international migration in 2018. It is hoped that migration will be governed by a set of common principles and approaches like other areas of international relations. To further strengthen responses for refugees, countries agreed to create a system leading to a more equitable sharing of the responsibility for hosting the world’s refugees by 2018. The UN system also launched a global campaign against xenophobia and welcomes the International Organization of Migration as a related agency.

‘Is Successful Integration Possible?’ Event at the Carnegie Council, NY

In the lead up to the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, GCM Director Parvati Nair spoke on 15th September at an event in New York entitled ‘Is Successful Integration Possible? Best Practices from North America and Europe’. The event was hosted by the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs and co-sponsored by the Government of Catalonia. It addressed how host countries can help migrants integrate into the schools, workforces, and cultures of their new communities, and was a timely discussion of public administration best practices on the critical global issue of international migration.

‘The Mediterranean Dimension of the Refugee Crisis’ Roundtable

On 16th September, GCM Director Parvati Nair spoke at a roundtable event on ‘The Mediterranean Dimension of the Refugee Crisis: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities’, in a session entitled ‘New Solutions: Forging Alliances for Innovative Integration Models’. The event in New York was organised by the Government of Catalonia in partnership with the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and the City University of New York (CUNY). It discussed how governments and actors in the Mediterranean region could work together to expand durable solutions for refugees in innovative ways and coordinate efforts to build welcoming communities for newcomers.

UNU Migration Network Summit Blog Series

As world leaders gathered in New York on 19th September 2016 at the Summit for Refugees and Migrants, the UNU Migration Network launched a blog series to reflect upon the challenges and opportunities of the summit from various critical perspectives: migration governance and policy; forced migration; migration and environment; migration and health; migration and culture; and migration and development. We invite you to read the posts in the series which can be found on the website of the UNU Migration Network.

Third Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development

On 29-30th September, GCM Research Fellow Megha Amrith participated in the ‘Third Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development’, hosted by Quezon City in the Philippines. The Forum brought together Mayors, local government and international organisation representatives from across the world to exchange experiences on urban governance in contexts of greater diversity. UNU-GCM was pleased to continue its annual collaboration with UNITAR and the Mayoral Forum, and contributed a policy brief on the ‘Inclusion and Protection of Migrants and Refugees in Vulnerable Situations within Urban Centres’.