UNU Rector Delivers Statements as Chair of Global Migration Group

UNU Rector David M. Malone, in his role as Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), delivered statements at two key international conferences on migration held in Berlin this month. At the Fourth Global Mayoral Forum on Migration and Development, 26-27 June, Rector Malone spoke to the critical role played by cities - and the Mayors and local authorities who lead them - as the first receivers of refugees and migrants, commending their actions providing much-needed humanitarian assistance and building inclusive societies. At the 10th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), 28-30 June, Rector Malone spoke on the role of the GMG and the larger UN System in supporting the intergovernmental process towards a Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. The states-led GFMD, which is being co-chaired by Germany and Morocco in 2017-2018, is currently working on the theme "Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development".

UNESCO-UNU Conference: ‘The Human Face of Migration’

UNU-GCM Director Parvati Nair moderated a panel at a conference jointly organised by UNESCO and UNU on ‘The Human Face of Migration: Historical Perspectives, Testimonies and Policy Considerations’, which took place at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on June 15 2017. The conference, which was organized by Mr. Daniel Rondeau, was opened by the Director General of UNESCO and the UNU Rector. Participants included representatives of governments, city authorities, academia, civil society organisations, artists and philanthropists well-known for their commitment to human rights and respect for diversity. The conference provided a platform for speakers to reveal the human face of global migration, with the aim to inform the development of appropriate policy frameworks at the local, national and global levels on the basis of empathy and mutual respect.

‘Academic Thinking on Migration’ Panel Series in New York

GCM team members participated as panellists in the ‘Academic Thinking on Migration’ Series held at the United Nations in New York. On June 8 2017, Research Fellow Megha Amrith spoke on the panel ‘Cities of Welcome: The Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees in Urban Areas’; and on June 22 2017, Senior Research Officer Francisco Cos-Montiel spoke on the panel ‘Addressing Women’s Rights in a Global Compact on Migration’. Panellists offered critical academic perspectives to a diverse audience of UN delegations and agencies, civil society organisations and academics. The series is convened by the UNU Migration Network with the support of the UNU Office in New York, and is held against the backdrop of thematic consultations feeding into negotiations towards a Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Research Presentations at International Conferences

Members of GCM team presented ongoing research at international conferences across Europe this month. On June 9 2017, GCM Director Parvati Nair presented a paper at the Italian Geography Congress in Rome on ‘Policing Against Xenophobia’. Meanwhile, GCM Junior Research Fellow Janina Pescinski presented ongoing research on the criminalization of humanitarian assistance to migrants at the ‘Between Borders: Exploring Spaces of Exclusion and Belonging in Global Migration’ at University College London, and also gave a talk on local and global campaigns against xenophobia at the Humanity in Action conference in Berlin on June 23.

Marking World Refugee Day

UNU-GCM marked World Refugee Day on June 20 with an article by Director Parvati Nair published with The Conversation on ‘Refugee or Migrant? Sometimes the Line is Blurred’, which calls for recognition of how millions of migrants and refugees experience blurred and interconnected situations. The Institute also published a statement to demonstrate its commitment to developing research that can contribute to improving the wellbeing of displaced persons around the world who have been forced to flee their homes.