



PROPOSALS FOR A GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

**WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE - GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON
REFUGEES**

KEY TERMINOLOGY

Refugees

“A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.”¹ Refugees are defined and protected in international law. The 1951 Refugee Convention; and the 1967 Protocol; as well as the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention are foundational to modern refugee protection.

Migrants

“Migrants choose to move not because of a direct threat of persecution or death, but mainly to improve their lives by finding work, or in some cases for education, family reunion, or other reasons. Unlike refugees who cannot safely return home, migrants face no such impediment to return. If they choose to return home, they will continue to receive the protection of their government.”²

Internally displaced people

“People forced to flee their homes but never cross an international border. These individuals are known as Internally Displaced Persons, or IDPs. These individuals seek safety anywhere they can find it. In nearby towns, schools, settlements, internal camps, even forests and fields.”³

Stateless people

“A stateless person is someone who is not a citizen of any country. Citizenship is the legal bond between a government and an individual, and allows for certain political, economic, social and other rights of the individual, as well as the responsibilities of both government and citizen. A person can become stateless due to a variety of reasons, including sovereign, legal, technical or administrative decisions or oversights.”⁴

Asylum seekers

“When people flee their own country and seek sanctuary in another country, they apply for asylum – the right to be recognized as a refugee and receive legal protection, and material assistance. An asylum seeker must demonstrate that his or her fear of persecution in his or her home country is well-founded.”⁵

Separated children

“Separated children are those separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.”⁶

¹ <https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/> (2nd December, 2017)

² <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/latest/2016/7/55df0e556/unhcr-viewpoint-refugee-migrant-right.html> (2nd December, 2017)

³ <https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/> (2nd December, 2017)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Separated, Asylum-Seeking Children in European Union Member States - Comparative Report* (2010), p.16.

Unaccompanied children (also minors)

“Unaccompanied children 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.”⁷

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Article 1

“For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.”⁸

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 6

“Separated Children are children, as defined in article 1 of the Convention, who have been separated from their parents, or from their legal or customary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.”⁹ Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (adopted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the children UK (SCUK), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Vision International (WVI)).¹⁰

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

INTRODUCTION

As the World Evangelical Alliance we are serving more than 600 million evangelical Christians. We have 7 regional and 129 national Evangelical Alliances; and over 150 member organisations. We are actively committed and engaged with our members calling everybody to welcome refugees; and to influence our societies to become more enabling when it comes to refugee recovery. Every day, our members are coming alongside refugees to provide food, clothing, safe accommodation, fostering, education, health care, hospitality, befriending, private sponsorship, counselling, pastoral care, language training, legal assistance, support finding employment and job opportunities.

It is essential that we respond with compassion, show kindness and give dignity to the precious men, women, children and babies who have been uprooted from their homes. Above all, we are to demonstrate God's unfailing love through practical action and friendship; as it is God Himself who has called us to love one another.

We believe all persons are worthy of respect and are to be given the opportunity to live up to their full potential. Inclusive of our engagement with refugees is the motivation to realign displacement with robust communities of creativity, peace and integral relationships.

We call on all partners involved in the discussions and drafting process to guarantee that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are upheld; and are the foundation stones to the global compact on refugees.

Based on this foundation and after consultations with some of our members working alongside refugees on a daily basis, it is our honour to submit proposals for the global compact on refugees. We trust the proposals following hereafter will be helpful. Please feel free to contact Commissioner Christine Macmillan at: christinem@worldea.org, if you need any further details on our contribution.

World Evangelical Alliance, Global Task Force on Refugees

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS FOR A GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

Proposal 1

Ensure the provision of development areas in the major refugee hosting countries.

Proposal 2

Ensure the establishing of regional development centres¹¹ in development areas of the major refugee hosting countries.

Proposal 3

Ensure that all refugees and migrants who choose to migrate are provided with safe and orderly migratory channels such as through embassies and consulates in the host countries of asylum; allowing refugees and migrants to apply for visas in the areas of labour migration, family reunification and humanitarian visas.

Proposal 4

For UN Member States to implement appropriate social protection systems and measures; including floors in line with target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹²

Proposal 5

For developed countries, to implement fully their official development assistance commitments in line with target 17.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹³

Proposal 6

For UN Member States to fully implement measures to ensure a non-discriminatory society, including preventing racism, violence, discrimination, persecution and xenophobia against refugees and migrants, starting from their arrival.

Proposal 7

For UN Member States to fully implement measures that ensure refugees and migrants have access to legal identity, nationality, health care, psychosocial support, education, justice, language training and the right to work.

Proposal 8

For UN Member States to act in solidarity; to equitably and predictably support refugees and host communities wherever they are; to ensure greater access to protection, assistance, human development and durable solutions.

¹¹ M. Beckett, *Hope for the Nations: a vision for the eradication of extreme poverty* (UK, 2012), The paper was included in the *UN NGLS Consultation Report for the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post -2015 Development Agenda*, November 2012.

¹¹ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2)

¹² <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>. p.15.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 36.

Proposal 9

In special cases the implementation of private sponsorship to allow refugees to come to UN Member States.

Proposal 10

The protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all migrant and refugee workers, in particular women, and those in precarious employment in line with target 8.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹⁴

Proposal 11

For UN Member States to ensure every refugee/migrant child has access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education in line with target 4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹⁵

Proposal 12

For UN Member States to ensure every refugee child and every migrant child has access to free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education in line with target 4.1 of the Sustainable development Goals.¹⁶

Proposal 13

For UN Member States to ensure that all refugee/migrant youth and a substantial proportion of refugee/migrant adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy in line with target 4.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹⁷

Proposal 14

To end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of refugee/migrant children in line with target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹⁸ To prevent sexual violence in refugee camps and ensure the protection of vulnerable groups, namely women and children. To provide safe and adequate shelter for women and children in a safe enclosed area of the refugee camp that is separate from men. In the safe enclosed area there is the provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

Proposal 15

For the implementation of a reliable and integrated international family tracing and reunification system, guaranteed by law and adhering to the best interests of the child.¹⁹ It is imperative that the concept of 'family' should be interpreted more broadly to include not only the nuclear family but other relatives as well, especially where relatives find themselves in emergency situations.

¹⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>. p.24.

¹⁵ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>. p.19.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p.19.

¹⁷ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>. p.20.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 34.

¹⁹ J. Bhabha and M. Dottridge, *Child Rights in Global Compacts: Recommendations for protecting, promoting and implementing the human rights of children on the move in the proposed Global Compacts*, Working Document (24th June, 2017), paragraph. 4.4.ii.

Proposal 16

For UN Member States to implement a 48 hour enhanced rapid response mechanism to ensure unaccompanied and separated children on arrival are identified, registered, screened for any international protection needs, receive access to the assessment and provision of international protection, receive access to qualified guardians and legal representation, access to health care and psychosocial services.

Proposal 17

For UN Member States, to implement protection measures for unaccompanied or separated children. This includes the provision of safe accommodation with appropriately screened, trained and monitored staff; safe access, or referral to health care; including psychosocial support, and reproductive and maternity services.²⁰

Proposal 18

For UN Member States to ensure that the best interests of the child will overarch all areas pertaining to refugee and migrant children, albeit accompanied and unaccompanied.

Proposal 19

For UN Member States to ensure refugee and migrant children are referred and supported through a national child protection system which is based on a legal framework, inclusive of informal and formal structures, with the capacity to protect them from violence abuse, exploitation and neglect.²¹ The child protection system is to support family unity or reunification where this is in the child's best interests, and to provide safe referral systems to appropriate services, assistance, information and protection.²²

Proposal 20

The implementation of universal guidelines for all authorities involved in conducting age assessments when a child's age is in doubt. It is imperative that a comprehensive assessment takes into account both the physical appearance and the psychological maturity of the child. In cases where there is uncertainty about the age of the individual they will be considered a child.

Proposal 21

For UN Member States to ensure the registering of the births of all refugee and migrant children with a civil authority and to provide the refugee and undocumented migrant children with the necessary documentation.²³

²⁰ Ibid., paragraph. 4.1.

²¹ UN General Assembly, United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, General Assembly resolution 69/194 of 18 December 2014, UN document A/RES/69/194 of 26 January 2015, paragraph. 6(b).

²² J. Bhabha and M. Dottridge, op. cit., paragraph. 4.1.

²³ J. Bhabha and M. Dottridge, op. cit., paragraph. 6.4.111.

Proposal 22

End the immigration detention of children and other practices that in turn result in deprivation of liberty of children for immigration-related reasons.²⁴

Proposal 23

Trafficking victims who fear persecution or other serious human rights violations and cannot return home must receive international protection as provided for in the 1951 Convention, in international human rights law or complementary forms of protection under national law. This entails most notably protection against refoulement and in many instances granting of asylum or another protection status.

Proposal 24

Special measures are needed to ensure that the specific protection needs of child victims of trafficking are addressed. Such measures should include, but not be limited to, a formal determination of the best interest of the child and a systematic assessment of the child's international protection needs.²⁵

Proposal 25

To prevent refugees and other persons of concern (asylum seekers, returnees, stateless and internally displaced persons) from becoming victims of human trafficking, and to address the needs of persons of concern who have fallen victim thereto.²⁶

Proposal 26

To ensure that international protection needs of trafficking victims (or those at risk of being trafficked) which may arise as a result of their trafficking experience are properly identified, and to assist States in ensuring that trafficking victims who are without identity documents are able to establish their identity and nationality status in order to prevent them from being rendered stateless, and to protect stateless victims of trafficking.²⁷

Proposal 27

Specific safeguards for the protection of boy and girl victims of trafficking should be established including:

- (a) A formal determination of the best interest of the child;²⁸
- (b) The adoption of child-specific protection measures, such as the appointment of guardians;²⁹
- (c) The gathering of information on the role parents might have played in the trafficking situation of their children;³⁰
- (d) Issues of tracing and family reunification, and³¹

²⁴ Ibid, paragraph. 5.4.1.

²⁵ UNHCR'S Perspective Conference Paper: Ministerial Conference on *Towards Global EU Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings* (Brussels, 19-20 October 2009).

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

(e) The observance of specific safeguards in cases of the repatriation of unaccompanied or separated children.³²

³² Ibid.

PROPOSALS FOR A GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

Proposal 1

Ensure the provision of development areas in the major refugee hosting countries.

Development areas are specifically enabling environments that allow refugees to be self-sufficient as soon as they arrive in a host country. The development area is located in the peripheral parts of the country in which both refugees, the host state and society mutually benefit from jobs, new markets, and improved public services.³³

The exact model for development areas will vary across economies that are predominantly manufacturing, agricultural or service-sector based. The key is to identify border locations in the major repeat refugee hosting countries, creating long-term development areas which will generate opportunities for both refugees and the host community.³⁴ It is essential that development areas are enabling environments³⁵ that provide opportunities for employment, the right to work, pre-school education, primary education and secondary education. In addition, provision of capital, connectivity, transportation, electricity, access to healthcare and basic nutrition.

Additional funds should come from the international community to specifically support refugee hosting areas, enabling them to perceive refugees as a potential boom.³⁶ The provision of funding will simultaneously benefit refugees and the hosting community.

Case study of the International Conference on Central American Refugees

In July 1989, in Guatemala City, the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) was jointly convened by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It was a process that lasted six years. The primary focus of CIREFCA was that an integrated approach could symbiotically benefit refugees and host communities and the approach was adapted accordingly from country to country, depending on whether the state was primarily a country of origin or of asylum.

Notably, the projects facilitated self-sufficiency and local integration. The case study for successful self-sufficiency was in Mexico, in Campeche and Quintana Roo in the Yucatan Peninsula, in which investment in new schools, hospitals and agricultural projects benefited both Mexican hosts and Guatemalan refugees. For the Mexican government, the projects were an attractive means to developing the poorest areas in the country, especially in the Yucatan Peninsula.³⁷

³³ A. Betts and P. Collier, *Refuge Transforming a Broken Refugee System* (UK: Penguin Random House, 2017), p.205.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p.145.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p.149.

CIREFCA also provided local integration for Salvadorian refugees in Belize, particularly in the underdeveloped Valley of Peace. By 2003, some 300 refugee families still remained and were integrated alongside the Belizeans of predominantly Maya Quechi ethnicity. Initially, the refugees were supported with food aid, a fund to build housing, tools and seeds. Now, many of the Salvadorians work in the tourism industry or in local employment, receiving social services alongside the Belizean community.³⁸

In total, it is estimated that CIREFCA has channelled over \$400 million in additional resources to the region, and the process is widely credited with helping to consolidate peace in Central America. The European states were the most significant group of donors and they saw sustainable solutions for refugees as a means to guarantee stability for the region, and to encourage inter-regional trade.³⁹

A General Assembly Resolution in 1993 stated that CIREFCA “could serve as a valuable lesson and applied to other regions of the world.”⁴⁰

Case study of Tennessee Valley Authority, USA

In the United States, one of the most famous projects to emerge from the New Deal was the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which oversaw construction of a vast network of hydroelectric dams, flood control projects, and waterways for navigation in the Tennessee River Valley, covering seven states in the south eastern United States.⁴¹ In addition, to creating thousands of jobs in a time of profound economic crisis, the TVA provided the Southeast with infrastructure, including cheap electricity, improved channels for commercial navigation, and a large network of dams to protect the valley’s inhabitants from floods. The TVA also successfully eradicated malaria, which had previously been endemic in the region, and significantly improved environmental practices in the area.⁴²

The TVA was part of a more general New Deal approach to combat poverty in the rural United States through public investments. The Rural Electrification Administration (REA), established in 1935, provided government credits and financial guarantees to rural cooperatives in order to extend electrification to American farms, ranches, and other rural locations. The effect was galvanising, despite the Great Depression. In 1935, only 11.6% of U.S. farms had electricity. By 1940, that number had reached 30.4% and by 1950, 77.2% of farms had access to electricity. In 1949, the REA was similarly empowered to finance the extension of telephone service to the rural United States. In just one decade, service coverage doubled from 36% in 1949 to 64% in 1959.⁴³

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid., p.150.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ J. Sachs *Common Wealth Economics for a Crowded Planet* (New York, USA: Penguin Group, 2008), p.234.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

Proposal 2

Ensure the establishing of regional development centres⁴⁴ in development areas of the major refugee hosting countries.

Regional development centres are to be established in development areas; of the major refugee hosting countries. The remit of regional development centres is robust, broad and allows for diversification due to differing environments. Regional development centres are to meet the immediate needs of refugees and host communities; and to provide access to capital, employment, electricity, education, healthcare, safe drinking water and sanitation, transportation and connectivity. Importantly, regional development centres also facilitate the attaining of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The regional development centres are to partner and collaborate with local, national and international governments; UN agencies; non-government organisations; host communities; refugees; community-based organisations; private sector and faith-based groups. Regional development centres would also allow for enhanced twinning arrangements with UN Member States.

Case study of Western China Development Project, China

The world's largest regional development project is the Western China Development Project, by which the Chinese government is spreading economic development beyond the booming coastal regions to the lagging regions in the interior.⁴⁵ The government has invested heavily in infrastructure, foreign investment promotion, education and environmental conservation (reforestation mainly) to help the western regions catch up. The results have been impressive; between 2000 and 2006, western China's production nearly doubled, equivalent to annual growth rates of more than 10% over that period. At the same time, massive migration from the interior to the coastal provinces and from the rural areas to the cities has also helped the development process in two ways. Firstly, it has provided jobs and improved incomes for more than one hundred million migrants. Many of these migrants were unemployed or working at very low productivity in their home villages. Secondly, part of that increased income has been sent back to the villages to support local consumption, business formation, and investments in homes and farms.⁴⁶

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 1; end poverty in all its forms everywhere:⁴⁷

- "Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures"⁴⁸ for development areas.

⁴⁴ M. Beckett, *Hope for the Nations: a vision for the eradication of extreme poverty* (UK, 2012), The paper was included in the *UN NGLS Consultation Report for the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post -2015 Development Agenda*, November 2012.

⁴⁴ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2)

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p.235.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg1>

⁴⁸ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.2.

- Ensure that all men and women from development areas “have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.”⁴⁹
- “Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.”⁵⁰
- “Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means,”⁵¹ for development areas to fully “implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.”⁵²
- “Create sound policy frameworks”⁵³ which are “based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.”⁵⁴

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 2; end hunger; achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture:⁵⁵

- Serve as a nutrition centre.⁵⁶
- “Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.”⁵⁷
- “Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.”⁵⁸
- Promote mechanisms which improve agricultural productivity and support diversification of livelihoods away from climate-sensitive activities, particularly

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid., p.3.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2>

⁵⁶ M. Beckett, op.cit., p.18.

⁵⁷ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.3.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

in areas prone to severe droughts or floods.⁵⁹

- Prepare the local community for natural disasters. Practical examples of such preparation include early warning systems; first aid training; evacuation plans for people and livestock to safe areas; building storm and flood shelters; developing local leadership and encouraging local networking.
- Employ trained advisers who can advise on appropriate farming techniques, and provide information concerning soil moisture and weather updates, and provide advice when to plant, weed and thin crops.⁶⁰
- Provide demonstration projects⁶¹ to show the benefits of contouring and crescent shaped terracing; appropriate irrigation techniques (such as alternate wet/dry irrigation to control malaria and Japanese Encephalitis, drip feed irrigation⁶², water stress management, etc); suitable rainwater harvesting techniques (dependent upon the environment); crop diversity; growing crops that are befitting to the environment and climate; the use of water wise reel gardening,⁶³ as it requires minimal water and no fertiliser.
- Formulate a drought policy with clearly defined objectives and a preparedness plan which outlays a strategy to achieve the specified objectives.⁶⁴
- Provide innovative off-grid energy, water and information technologies.⁶⁵
- It is essential that the Departments of Agriculture, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), or Regional Drought Monitoring Centres are disseminating important weather updates and other appropriate information to those working at grass roots level. The regional development centres have trained advisers who work in partnership with those who hold the necessary information and with villagers and farmers who depend on it for their livelihoods. The advisers from the regional development centres disseminate information concerning soil moisture and weather updates, and to advise when to plant, weed and thin crops.⁶⁶
- Conduct programmes to educate the community on sustainable agriculture.⁶⁷
- Promote the preservation of the environment, as it is necessary to ensure long-term sustainable growth. Regional development centres need to promote landscape rehabilitation, protect springs and launch environmental awareness.

⁵⁹ UNDP, *What Will it Take to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015? – An International Assessment* (New York, USA: United Nations Development Programme, 2010), p.31.

⁶⁰ Beckett, op.cit., p.29.

⁶¹ www.drought.unl.edu/monitor

⁶² IWMI Research Project 47.

⁶³ www.sivi.org > clare-reid-south-africa

⁶⁴ www.drought.unl.edu/monitor

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Beckett, op.cit., p.30.

⁶⁷ Beckett, op.cit., p.30.

- Provide tree saplings to protect soil and provide shade, fuel and windbreaks.
- Encourage crop diversity and home gardening by having demonstration plots.⁶⁸
- Implement a 'Diversifying Income Programme' that will improve food security by creating income and employment-generating opportunities.⁶⁹
- Promote agricultural businesses of low-income producers.⁷⁰
- Facilitate agro-processing and provide the means for microcredit.⁷¹
- Give advice on appropriate farming techniques and low-input agriculture.⁷²
- Provide advice on agro-forestry techniques.⁷³
- Provide a base for seed fairs to promote agricultural diversity.⁷⁴
- Implement 'best practice' guidelines for sustainable agriculture.⁷⁵
- Establish strong agricultural partnerships in biodiversity conservation initiatives.⁷⁶
- Provide vitamin and mineral supplements.
- Provide health services which provide life-saving medicines.⁷⁷
- Ensure that the schools in the development area provide free daily school lunches, using locally produced food.⁷⁸
- Promote full and productive work for all (women, refugees, indigenous people, young people and people with disabilities, rural and urban populations).
- Promote small-and medium-sized enterprises through initiatives such as skills enhancement and technical training programmes, vocational training and entrepreneurial skills development.⁷⁹

⁶⁸ Beckett, op.cit., p.18.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid., p.19.

⁷³ Ibid., p.19.

⁷⁴ Ibid., p.19.

⁷⁵ Ibid., p.19.

⁷⁶ Beckett, op.cit., p.19.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals* (New York, USA, 17 September 2010), resolution 70.

- Promote inclusive financial services, particularly microfinance and including affordable and accessible credit, savings, insurance and payment products, for all segments of society.⁸⁰
- Promote the empowerment and participation of all women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security. Ensuring their equal access to productive resources, land, financing, technologies, training and markets.⁸¹

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 3; ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages:⁸²

- Provide full “health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines for all.”⁸³
- Strengthen the capacity of all development areas “for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.”⁸⁴
- Reduce deaths from pneumonia and diarrhoea by educating local communities on how to reduce risks such as indoor air pollution. They are to provide treatment with antibiotics. Efforts to tackle diarrhoea are to focus on the use of oral rehydration salts solution and zinc for treatment, and ensure access to safe water, sanitation and breastfeeding for prevention.⁸⁵
- Provide access to primary health care.⁸⁶
- Train community leaders in basic health, hygiene and nutrition.
- The implementation of ‘The Hygiene Code’. ‘The Hygiene Code’ must become an integral part of normal behaviour in everyday life and in every family and community.⁸⁷
- Sustain and scale up successful prevention and vaccination programmes as one of the most efficient ways to reduce child mortality, including the measles, polio, tuberculosis and tetanus campaigns.⁸⁸
- Provide hepatitis vaccinations.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3>

⁸³ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.5.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ World Health Organisation, *20 Ways the World Health Organisation Helps Countries to Reach the Millennium Development Goals* (World Health Organisation: 2010), p.2.

⁸⁶ Beckett, op.cit., p.22.

⁸⁷ www.wsscc.org

⁸⁸ United Nations General Assembly 2010, op.cit., resolution 74.

- “Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and harmful use of alcohol.”⁸⁹
- Provide an integrated package of essential interventions and services, including, in particular, access to nutritious food and appropriate supplements. Information and support for exclusive breastfeeding and for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition.⁹⁰
- Promote hygienic care, including hand washing with soap.⁹¹
- Provide on an urgent basis, extended and sustainable coverage and improved quality of services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV as well as increased access to paediatric HIV treatment services.⁹²
- Provide essential antenatal and postnatal care for all mothers and babies, providing integrated services to address all maternity needs and supporting care in the home. This includes training more skilled birth attendants and ensuring simple, life-saving measures such as active management of the third stage of delivery, early skin-to-skin contact, keeping the baby warm and early and exclusive breastfeeding.⁹³
- Train community health workers in basic maternal health interventions.
- Provide sexual and reproductive health education.⁹⁴
- Provide antenatal classes.⁹⁵
- Build and oversee local clinics in development areas. The clinics are to be equipped with medical supplies.
- Ensure that women, men and young people have access to information about acceptable methods of family planning.⁹⁶
- To expand the provision of comprehensive obstetric care and strengthen the role of skilled-health care providers, including midwives and nurses, through their training.⁹⁷
- To expand family planning within local communities.⁹⁸

⁸⁹ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.5.

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ World Health Organization 2010, *op.cit.*, p.2.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁹⁵ Beckett, *op.cit.*, p.24.

⁹⁶ United Nations General Assembly, 2010, *op.cit.*, resolution 75.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

- Upgrade and expand formal and informal training in sexual and reproductive health care and family planning for all health-care providers, health educators and managers, including training in interpersonal communication and counselling.⁹⁹
- Provide delivery kits.¹⁰⁰
- Provide effective anti-malarial medicines (artemisinin-based combination therapy, [ACT]) and rapid diagnostic tests. Malaria can be cured if diagnosed and treated within 24 hours of the onset of symptoms.¹⁰¹
- Educate local communities about integrated vector management – better water, sanitation, and irrigation management.¹⁰²
- Promote malaria awareness through health education.
- Provide long-lasting, safe insecticide-treated bed nets.¹⁰³
- Immunise children against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases, and introduce new life-saving vaccines such as those against pneumonia and rotavirus diarrhoea.¹⁰⁴
- Improving tuberculosis (TB) control, surveillance, and care.¹⁰⁵
- Provision of mental health and psychosocial support.
- Provision of voluntary HIV testing and counselling.¹⁰⁶
- There must be a comprehensive HIV/AIDS strategy which links prevention, treatment, care and long-term support.¹⁰⁷
- An effective policy must be implemented to address HIV/AIDS and agriculture. Opportunities for action include:
 - Developing AIDS-awareness programmes that are tailored for rural communities.¹⁰⁸

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Beckett, op.cit., p.24.

¹⁰¹ World Health Organization, 2010, op.cit., p.3.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ United Nations General Assembly, 2010, op.cit., resolution 74.

¹⁰⁴ World Health Organisation, 2010, op.cit., p.2.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., p.3.

¹⁰⁶ Beckett, op.cit., p.25.

¹⁰⁷ World Health Organisation, *the World Health Report 2004: Changing History* (World Health Organisation: 2004).

¹⁰⁸ UNAIDS, (*HIV/AIDS, Human Resources and Sustainable Development*, World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002).

- Introducing microcredit schemes that can help sustain female-headed households.¹⁰⁹
- Equipping agricultural extension workers with HIV/AIDS knowledge and skills.¹¹⁰
- Ensuring that farming and other essential life skills are passed on to young people.¹¹¹
- Strengthening rural cooperatives.¹¹²
- Supporting home and community-based care in rural areas.¹¹³
- Protecting property rights following the death of a spouse.¹¹⁴
- Promoting the advancement of women and gender equality.¹¹⁵
- Provision of training for: community workers; carers; teachers; youth workers; members of the private sector; community leaders and district leaders.¹¹⁶
- A meeting point for people from multi-sectors to gather, network and collaborate.¹¹⁷
- Support home and community-based care in rural and urban areas.¹¹⁸
- Enable communities to develop appropriate response strategies for HIV/AIDS-affected households, for example, related to nutrition, labour-saving technologies and community mobilisation.¹¹⁹
- Promote home gardening, as it can assist in providing a wider variety of food.¹²⁰
- Integrate HIV information and services into programmes for primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, including voluntary family planning and mother and child health, treatment for tuberculosis, hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections and care for children affected, orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, as well as nutrition and informal education.¹²¹

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ FAO and IP, (*HIV/AIDS and Agriculture: Impacts and Responses. Case studies from Namibia, Uganda and Zambia*), p.20.

¹¹⁶ Beckett, op.cit., p.27.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ United Nations General Assembly (2010, resolution 76).

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 4; ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all:¹²²

- Ensure every child from development areas has “access to free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education.”¹²³
- Abolish school fees.¹²⁴
- Ensure that the schools in development areas provide free daily school meals.
- The schools in the area are to provide separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls.¹²⁵
- Ensure every child from development areas has “access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.”¹²⁶
- “Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.”¹²⁷
- Ensure that youths and adults in development areas have “technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.”¹²⁸
- Provide “equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.”¹²⁹
- Build “education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.”¹³⁰
- Ensure that all learners from development areas “acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of global diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.”¹³¹

¹²² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg4>

¹²³ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.6.

¹²⁴ United Nations General Assembly (2010, resolution 71).

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.6.

¹²⁷ Ibid., p.7.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

- To give greater focus on the transition from primary education and access to secondary education, vocational training and non-formal education and entry into the labour market.¹³²
- Encourage the local communities to value and promote education opportunities for girls.

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 5; achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls:¹³³

- Ensure an end to “all forms of discrimination against women and girls”¹³⁴ from development areas.
- “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.”¹³⁵
- “Eliminate all harmful practices, such as a child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.”¹³⁶
- Ensure all women in development areas are given “equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.”¹³⁷
- “Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular technology, to promote the empowerment of women.”¹³⁸
- Empower and equip women and promoting community development through basic and lifelong education. In addition, regional development centres are to provide education and skills training for income-generating activities with the aim of leading to improved income and quality of life for the whole community.¹³⁹
- Ensure that women receive opportunities to participate in government, judiciary, media and civil society.¹⁴⁰
- Advocate gender equality.¹⁴¹

¹³² United Nations General Assembly (2010, resolution 71).

¹³³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5>

¹³⁴ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.8.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid., p.9.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ Beckett, op.cit., p.20.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

- Provide targeted investments such as improved access to water and fuel wood, accessible local clinics, mills for grain, and trucking and ambulance services.
- Encourage access to education and successful schooling of girls from the region, by removing barriers and expanding support for girls' education. This will be achieved by measures such as providing free primary education, a safe environment for schooling and financial assistance such as scholarships and cash transfer programmes, tracking completion and attendance rates with a view to retaining girls in schools through secondary levels.¹⁴²
- Empower women and ensure equal access to all levels of quality education and to provide training and vocational training, including technical, managerial and entrepreneurial training.¹⁴³
- Promote active participation of women in all political and economic decision-making processes, including by investing in women's leadership in local decision-making structures and processes. Equal participation of women and men as key stakeholders at all levels in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peace building processes.¹⁴⁴
- Ensure every refugee teacher is provided with the opportunity for paid employment as a teacher to refugee children.
- Raise awareness that will prevent and combat all forms of violence against girls and women. To ensure that all women have access to justice and protection.¹⁴⁵
- Strengthen child protection systems, in order to combat child trafficking and eliminate the worst forms of child labour.¹⁴⁶
- Implement a poverty eradication programme and access to education, to combat child trafficking and eradicate the worst forms of child labour.¹⁴⁷
- Facilitate access by women to affordable microfinance, in particular microcredit, which can contribute to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women.¹⁴⁸
- Promote women's economic empowerment and ensure women's access to productive resources.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴² United Nations General Assembly (2010, resolution 72).

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ United Nations General Assembly (2010, resolution 72).

- Promote and protect women’s equal access to adequate housing, property and land, including rights to inheritance and enabling them to secure access to credit.¹⁵⁰

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 6; ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all:¹⁵¹

- Ensure that development areas provide “equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.”¹⁵²
- Ensure that development areas provide “access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.”¹⁵³
- Oversee the improvement of “water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse.”¹⁵⁴
- “Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.”¹⁵⁵
- “Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.”¹⁵⁶
- Train members of local communities how to build and maintain latrines; build and maintain storage tanks; management skills; local leadership skills; appropriate rainwater harvesting techniques and how to maintain water supplies.¹⁵⁷
- Employ trained latrine workers, water supply workers and public health workers. They can be appointed by the community to ensure the strengthening of community ownership and participation.¹⁵⁸
- Install ecological sanitation to demonstrate how it is able to offer a safe sanitation solution that prevents disease and promotes health; how it is

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6>

¹⁵² Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.9.

¹⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Beckett, op., p.22.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

environmentally sound as it doesn't contaminate groundwater or use scarce water resources; and that the human waste can be recycled as compost and fertiliser.¹⁵⁹

- Ensure that the all schools implement effective school sanitation programmes. The programmes are to involve constructing latrines; training teachers and district leaders; awareness-raising materials; and constructing rainwater tanks and gutters to encourage hand washing after using the latrines.¹⁶⁰
- Encourage the use of condominial technology which is a new method of layout and network design that offers improved water and sewerage services to low-income families.¹⁶¹
- Provide innovative off-grid energy, water and information technologies.¹⁶²
- Implement an integrated water and sanitation strategy, which includes the restoration, upgrading and maintenance of infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks.¹⁶³

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 7; ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all:¹⁶⁴

- Ensure that development areas provide “access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.”¹⁶⁵
- “Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all.”¹⁶⁶
- Provide innovative off-grid energy, water and information technologies.¹⁶⁷
- Educate the community on ways to conserve energy and have fuel efficient homes.
- Educate the community on the increased use of new and renewable energy sources and low emission technologies, the more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources. Regional development centres are to also promote access to modern, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services.¹⁶⁸

¹⁵⁹ C. Sugden, *One Step Closer to Sustainable Sanitation: experiences of an ecological sanitation project in Malawi* (Wateraid).

¹⁶⁰ www.wsscc.org

¹⁶¹ <http://www.wsp.org/condominial/indexeng.html>

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Ibid.

¹⁶⁴ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>

¹⁶⁵ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators* (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.10.

¹⁶⁶ Ibid.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ United Nations General Assembly (2010, resolution 77).

- Promote low-carbon development initiatives.¹⁶⁹

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 8; promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all:¹⁷⁰

- “Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formulization and growth of micro-small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.”¹⁷¹
- Ensure that development areas “achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and provide equal pay for work of equal value.”¹⁷²
- Implement “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 ... child labour in all its forms.”¹⁷³
- Implement effective measures to “protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers and those in precarious employment.”¹⁷⁴
- Strengthen regional integration and trade as it is crucial for significant development benefits, growth and jobs.
- The implementation of “policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs, and promotes local culture and products.”¹⁷⁵
- Ensure development areas “strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.”¹⁷⁶

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 9; build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation:¹⁷⁷

- Ensure development areas “develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg8>

¹⁷¹ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.11.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid., p.12.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg9>

economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.”¹⁷⁸

- Guarantee that development areas “increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises ... to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.”¹⁷⁹
- Ensure development areas “increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide ... affordable access to the Internet.”¹⁸⁰

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 10; reduce inequality within and among countries:¹⁸¹

- “Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.”¹⁸²
- “Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.”¹⁸³
- “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.”¹⁸⁴
- “Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment,”¹⁸⁵ to development areas.

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 11; make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable:¹⁸⁶

- Guarantee that development areas provide “access for all to, adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services.”¹⁸⁷
- Ensure that development areas “provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of

¹⁷⁸ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.12.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p.13.

¹⁸¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg10>

¹⁸² *Ibid.*, p.13.

¹⁸³ *Ibid.*, p.14.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>

¹⁸⁷ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.14.

those in vulnerable situations, women and children, persons with disabilities and older persons.”¹⁸⁸

- Ensure that development areas “provide access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.”¹⁸⁹
- Guarantee that development areas adopt and implement “integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.”¹⁹⁰

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 12; ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns:¹⁹¹

- Guarantee that development areas “achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.”¹⁹²
- Ensure that development areas “substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.”¹⁹³
- “Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.”¹⁹⁴
- “Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.”¹⁹⁵

Regional Development Centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 13; take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts:¹⁹⁶

- “Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.”¹⁹⁷

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid., p.15.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid., p.16.

¹⁹¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/12>

¹⁹² *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.16.

¹⁹³ Ibid.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid., p.17.

¹⁹⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/13>

¹⁹⁷ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.17.

- “Integrate climate change measures into...policies, strategies and planning.”¹⁹⁸

Regional Development Centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 14: conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.¹⁹⁹

- Regional development centres “provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.”²⁰⁰

Regional Development Centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 15; protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss:²⁰¹

- Ensure that within development areas “the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with international agreements.”²⁰²
- “Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation.”²⁰³
- “Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods.”²⁰⁴
- “Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes; poverty reduction strategies and accounts.”²⁰⁵

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 16; promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels:²⁰⁶

- Ensure that within development areas there is an end to “abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.”²⁰⁷

¹⁹⁸ Ibid., p.18.

¹⁹⁹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>

²⁰⁰ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.19.

²⁰¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15>

²⁰² *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.20.

²⁰³ Ibid.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ Ibid., p.21.

²⁰⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>

²⁰⁷ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.21.

- “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.”²⁰⁸
- “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.”²⁰⁹
- Guarantee accountability among partners. The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) is a step forward to better track how aid is used, what it is being used for and what it is achieving.²¹⁰

Regional development centres meet Sustainable Development Goal 17; strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development:²¹¹

- “Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.”²¹²
- “Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies.”²¹³
- “Respect each country’s policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development.”²¹⁴
- “Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.”²¹⁵
- “Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.”²¹⁶
- Building local infrastructure, setting up power grids, supplying local regions with computers and establishing internet connectivity, will help to build the private-public partnership essential to establishing rural-urban connections to ensure long-term transformation.

²⁰⁸ Ibid., p. 22.

²⁰⁹ Ibid.

²¹⁰ UNDP, op.cit., p.34.

²¹¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17>

²¹² *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.24.

²¹³ Ibid.

²¹⁴ Ibid., p.25.

²¹⁵ Ibid., p.25.

²¹⁶ Ibid.

- Partner and collaborate with local, national and international governments; UN agencies; non-government organisations; host communities; community-based organisations; faith-based groups and the private sector to develop participatory anti-poverty development.
- Private operators working in partnerships with governments, community-based organisations, non-government organisations are able to serve low income families in development areas through participatory approaches.

Proposal 3

Ensure that all refugees and migrants who choose to migrate are provided with safe and orderly migratory channels such as through embassies and consulates in the host countries of asylum; allowing refugees and migrants to apply for visas in the areas of labour migration, family reunification and humanitarian visas.

Proposal 4

For UN Member States to implement appropriate social protection systems and measures; including floors in line with target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.²¹⁷

Proposal 5

For developed countries, to implement fully their official development assistance commitments in line with target 17.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.²¹⁸

For “developed countries to fully implement their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.”²¹⁹

These commitments are to be fulfilled by developed countries to ensure that greater support is given where needed to communities hosting refugees to ensure the needs of both refugees and host communities are met.

Proposal 6

For UN Member States to fully implement measures to ensure a non-discriminatory society, including preventing racism, violence, discrimination, persecution and xenophobia against refugees and migrants, starting from their arrival.

²¹⁷ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>. p.15.

²¹⁸ Ibid., 36.

²¹⁹ *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, (E/CN.3/2017/2), p.23.

Proposal 7

For UN Member States to fully implement measures that ensure refugees and migrants have access to legal identity, nationality, health care, psychosocial support, education, justice, language training and the right to work.

Proposal 8

For UN Member States to act in solidarity; to equitably and predictably support refugees and host communities wherever they are; to ensure greater access to protection, assistance, human development and durable solutions.

Proposal 9

In special cases the implementation of private sponsorship to allow refugees to come to UN Member States.

This model works for example in Canada and is starting to be used by some EU Member States such as Germany and Sweden. Private sponsorship allows for access to EU territory on invitation by a legal resident in an EU state, whether there are family links or in other circumstances (for example an NGO, a Church entity or a group of people living in the member state decides to sponsor one person or one family from Syria). The sponsor is responsible for the asylum seeker, e.g. guaranteeing her/his living costs for a specific period so that there is less impact on the local social welfare system. The model should, however, not be considered as a general solution to the existing problems but rather as a ‘tool’ to be applied in special cases. It should be avoided, on the other hand, that refugees become dependent on private sponsors for gaining access to protection.²²⁰

Proposal 10

The protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all migrant and refugee workers, in particular women, and those in precarious employment in line with target 8.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.²²¹

Proposal 11

For UN Member States to ensure every refugee/migrant child has access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education in line with target 4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.²²²

Proposal 12

For UN Member States to ensure every refugee child and every migrant child has access to free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education in line with target 4.1 of the Sustainable development Goals.²²³

²²⁰ Caritas Europa, CCME – Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, COMECE – Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community, Eurodiaconia, ICMC – International Catholic Migration Commission, JRS-Europe – Jesuit Refugee Service Europe, QCEA – Quaker Council for European Affairs, *Recommendations for the Safe and Legal Paths to the Protection of the EU* (Brussels, November 19th 2014).

²²¹ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>. p.24.

²²² <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>. p.19.

²²³ *Ibid.*, p.19.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 28

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular: (a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all; (b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need; (c) Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means; (d) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children; (e) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.²²⁴

Proposal 13

For UN Member States to ensure that all refugee/migrant youth and a substantial proportion of refugee/migrant adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy in line with target 4.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals.²²⁵

Proposal 14

To end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of refugee/migrant children in line with target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.²²⁶ **To prevent sexual violence in refugee camps and ensure the protection of vulnerable groups, namely women and children. To provide safe and adequate shelter for women and children in a safe enclosed area of the refugee camp that is separate from men. In the safe enclosed area there is the provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.**

Proposal 15

For the implementation of a reliable and integrated international family tracing and reunification system, guaranteed by law and adhering to the best interests of the child.²²⁷ **It is imperative that the concept of ‘family’ should be interpreted more broadly to include not only the nuclear family but other relatives as well, especially where relatives find themselves in emergency situations.**

Proposal 16

For UN Member States to implement a 48 hour enhanced rapid response mechanism to ensure unaccompanied and separated children on arrival are identified, registered, screened for any international protection needs, receive access to the assessment and provision of international protection, receive access to qualified guardians and legal representation, access to health care and psychosocial services.

²²⁴ <http://www.dignityinschools.org/content/convention-rights-child-crc-articles-28-and-29>

²²⁵ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>. p.20.

²²⁶ *Ibid.*, 34.

²²⁷ J. Bhabha and M. Dottridge, *Child Rights in Global Compacts: Recommendations for protecting, promoting and implementing the human rights of children on the move in the proposed Global Compacts*, Working Document (24th June, 2017), paragraph. 4.4.ii.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment 6 states that unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. It notes that special protection and assistance obligations of States to ensure that these children are protected from trafficking and from sexual and other forms of exploitation, abuse and violence.²²⁸

Proposal 17

For UN Member States, to implement protection measures for unaccompanied or separated children. This includes the provision of safe accommodation with appropriately screened, trained and monitored staff; safe access, or referral to health care; including psychosocial support, and reproductive and maternity services.²²⁹

Proposal 18

For UN Member States to ensure that the best interests of the child will overarch all areas pertaining to refugee and migrant children, albeit accompanied and unaccompanied.

States are required as a matter of binding international law to treat the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all actions concerning them. The best interests principle is universal, one of four general principles articulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.²³⁰ This principle asserts that "in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration." Several soft law commitments also assert the primacy of the best interests principle with respect to particular categories of children, including stateless children, unaccompanied and separated children, and refugee and asylum seeking children.²³¹

The New York Declaration commits signatories to ensuring that the best interests of the child will be a primary consideration in all matters concerning the child.²³²

²²⁸ See Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 6 on the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, para. 50-51. This general comment notes that both negative and positive obligations are incumbent upon signatories of the CRC, including the prohibition of abuse and exploitation as well as efforts to identify unaccompanied children and attempt to trace their families. In addition, it reiterated the principle of non-refoulement of children on the move and provides guidelines on the range of protections that should be afforded to them, including protection from exploitation and abuse and from military recruitment. The General Comment also emphasizes the need for specialized training for staff who deal with child protection issues and for accurate data collection.

²²⁹ J. Bhabha and M. Dottridge, op. cit., paragraph. 4.1.

²³⁰ UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 3 together with art. 2 (non-discrimination), art. 6 (right to life, survival and development) and art. 12 (right of the child to express his or her views freely).

²³¹ See Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 6 on the treatment of the unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin; UNHCR, Guidelines on Determining the Best Interests of the Child, 2008, <http://www.unhcr.org/4566b16b2.pdf>; UNHCR, Field Handbook for the Implementation of UNHCR BID Guidelines, 2011, <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/children/50f6d27fg/field-handbook-implemetation-unhcr-bid-guidelines.html>.

²³² UN General Assembly, New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, UN document A/71/L.1 of 13 September 2016, paragraph 32.

Proposal 19

For UN Member States to ensure refugee and migrant children are referred and supported through a national child protection system which is based on a legal framework, inclusive of informal and formal structures, with the capacity to protect them from violence abuse, exploitation and neglect.²³³ The child protection system is to support family unity or reunification where this is in the child's best interests, and to provide safe referral systems to appropriate services, assistance, information and protection.²³⁴

Article 19 of the CRC requires State Parties to “take all appropriate and legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.” Article 20 of the Convention notes that “[a] child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.” The CRC also obligates State parties to prevent trafficking and sexual and other forms of exploitation, abuse and violence, and to take measures to promote recovery and social reintegration.²³⁵ The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air also address the child protection needs of refugee and migrant children in the contexts of trafficking and smuggling.²³⁶

The New York Declaration includes several commitments to ensure the child protection needs of refugee and migrant children. It states: “We will refer their care to the relevant national child protection authorities and other relevant authorities...We will strive to provide refugee and migrant children with a nurturing environment to the full realization of their rights and capabilities.”²³⁷ In addition, the Declaration commits States, to the extent possible, to ensuring the measures are in place to provide the care and services needed by affected children.²³⁸

Proposal 20

The implementation of universal guidelines for all authorities involved in conducting age assessments when a child's age is in doubt. It is imperative that a comprehensive assessment takes into account both the physical appearance and the psychological maturity of the child. In cases where there is uncertainty about the age of the individual they will be considered a child.

²³³ UN General Assembly, United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, General Assembly resolution 69/194 of 18 December 2014, UN document A/RES/69/194 of 26 January 2015, paragraph 6(b).

²³⁴ J. Bhabha and M. Dottridge, *op. cit.*, paragraph 4.1.

²³⁵ Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 34, 35, 36 and 39.

²³⁶ Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, also supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15 November 2000.

²³⁷ New York Declaration, paragraph 32.

²³⁸ *Ibid.* paragraph 32; Annex 1, paragraphs 5(a), 5(3) and 7(b).

Proposal 21

For UN Member States to ensure the registering of the births of all refugee and migrant children with a civil authority and to provide the refugee and undocumented migrant children with the necessary documentation.²³⁹

Proposal 22

End the immigration detention of children and other practices that in turn result in deprivation of liberty of children for immigration-related reasons.²⁴⁰

In its General Comment on unaccompanied and separated children, the Committee on the Rights of the Child confirmed that “the application of article 37 of the Convention and the principle of the best interests of the child, unaccompanied or separated children should not, as a general rule, be detained. Detention cannot be justified solely on the basis of the child being unaccompanied or separated, or on their migratory or residence status, or lack thereof.”²⁴¹

In the analysis of the rights of children in the context of international migration in 2012, the Committee on the Rights of the Child underlined this principle to all children, albeit accompanied or unaccompanied. The Committee highlighted that “...children should not be criminalized or subject to punitive measures because of their parents’ migration status. The detention of a child because of their or their parent’s migration status constitutes a child rights violation and always contravenes the principles of the best interests of the child. In this light, States should expeditiously and completely cease the detention of children on the basis of immigration status.”²⁴²

Proposal 23

Trafficking victims who fear persecution or other serious human rights violations and cannot return home must receive international protection as provided for in the 1951 Convention, in international human rights law or complementary forms of protection under national law. This entails most notably protection against refoulement and in many instances granting of asylum or another protection status.

Persons who have been or are at risk of being trafficked may have a well founded fear of persecution or be at risk of serious harm. Member States must ensure that appropriate and effective referral mechanisms are in place between authorities involved in anti trafficking activities and those responsible for granting of international protection. Such measures must ensure full compliance with the principle of non-refoulement.²⁴³

²³⁹ J. Bhabha and M. Dottridge, op. cit., paragraph. 6.4.111.

²⁴⁰ Ibid, paragraph. 5.4.1.

²⁴¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 6, 2005, op. cit., paragraph. 61.

²⁴² Committee on the Rights of the Child, Report of the 2012 Day of General Discussion, The Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration, 2012.

²⁴³ UNHCR’S Perspective Conference Paper: Ministerial Conference on *Towards Global EU Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings* (Brussels, 19-20 October 2009).

Proposal 24

Special measures are needed to ensure that the specific protection needs of child victims of trafficking are addressed. Such measures should include, but not be limited to, a formal determination of the best interest of the child and a systematic assessment of the child's international protection needs.²⁴⁴

Proposal 25

To prevent refugees and other persons of concern (asylum seekers, returnees, stateless and internally displaced persons) from becoming victims of human trafficking, and to address the needs of persons of concern who have fallen victim thereto.²⁴⁵

Proposal 26

To ensure that international protection needs of trafficking victims (or those at risk of being trafficked) which may arise as a result of their trafficking experience are properly identified, and to assist States in ensuring that trafficking victims who are without identity documents are able to establish their identity and nationality status in order to prevent them from being rendered stateless, and to protect stateless victims of trafficking.²⁴⁶

Proposal 27

Specific safeguards for the protection of boy and girl victims of trafficking should be established including:

- (a) A formal determination of the best interest of the child;²⁴⁷
- (b) The adoption of child-specific protection measures, such as the appointment of guardians;²⁴⁸
- (c) The gathering of information on the role parents might have played in the trafficking situation of their children;²⁴⁹
- (d) Issues of tracing and family reunification, and²⁵⁰
- (e) The observance of specific safeguards in cases of the repatriation of unaccompanied or separated children.²⁵¹

²⁴⁴ Ibid.

²⁴⁵ Ibid.

²⁴⁶ Ibid.

²⁴⁷ Ibid.

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

²⁴⁹ Ibid.

²⁵⁰ Ibid.

²⁵¹ Ibid.