Labour migration statistics – Conceptual framework & importance for policy-making

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March 2018

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1. International standards (1)

- United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998): http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_58rev1E.pdf ;

- United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census, Rev.2 (2007) & Rev.3 (2014): http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/standmeth/principles/Series_M67Rev2en.pdf ; http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/NewYork/2014/P&R_Revision3.pdf ;

1. International standards (2)

- The Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention C143 of 1975: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312288 ;

- The United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (UN Migrant Workers Convention, 1990): http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CMW.aspx

2. Conceptual framework (1): International migrant (UN)

- UN International recommendations on statistical measurement of international migration (1998):

    – **International migrant:**

        - Any person who changes his or her country of usual residence.

    – **Usual residence*:**

        - Country in which a person lives, i.e., the country in which he or she has a place to live where he or she normally spends the daily period of rest. Temporary travel abroad for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage does not change a person's residence.

        (*) usual residence determined on the basis of duration of stay

- **Short term migrant:**
  - A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least 3 months but less than a year (12 months) except in cases where the move is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage

- **Long term migrant:**
  - A person who moves to a country other than that of his/her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination becomes his/her new country of usual residence

- **Principal measurement criteria:**

  – Move from one country to another country by crossing a border

  – Change in usual residence

  – Minimum duration of stay (3+, 12+)

Visitors

Short term migrants

Long term migrants

3 months   *12 months*

Duration of stay
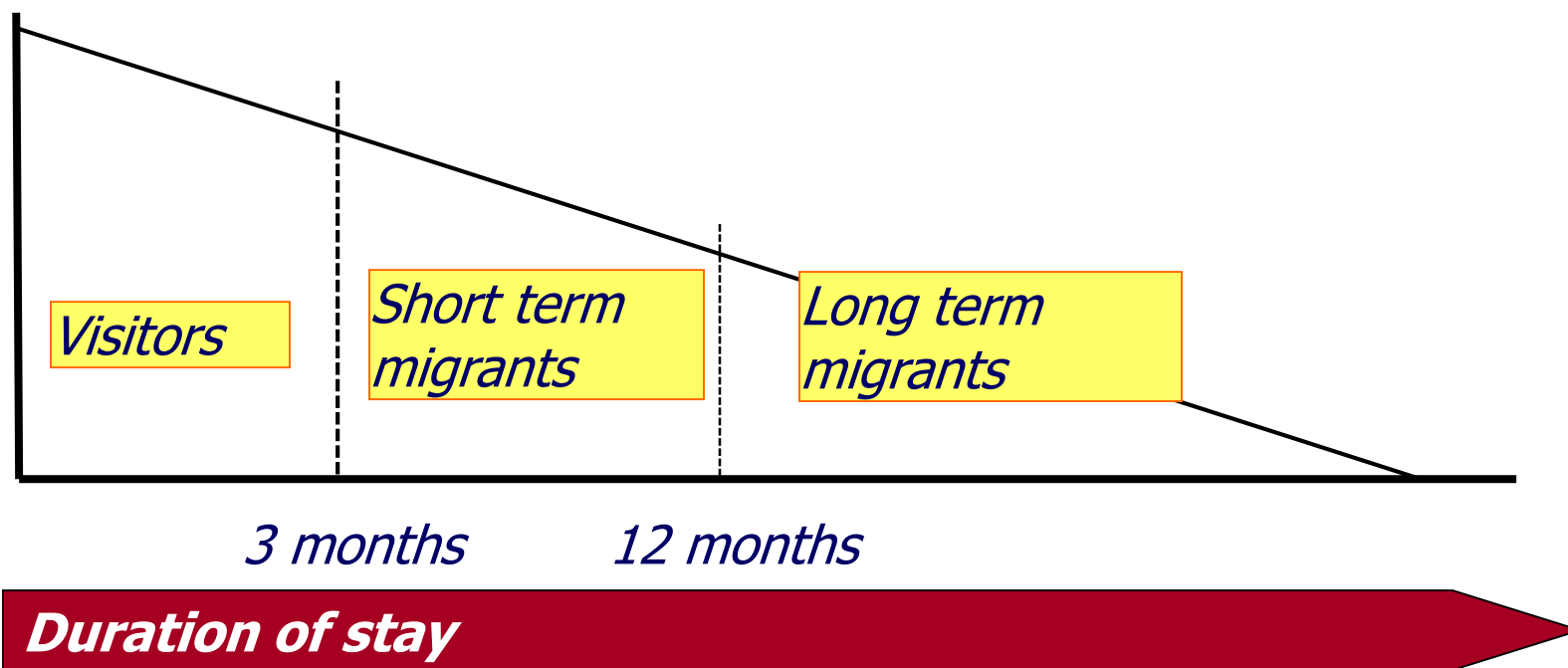
Migrant worker (UN)

- *United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICMW)*

  – Adopted in 1990 by the UN General Assembly

  – Provides legal definition that can serve as basis for statistical measurement

- **Migrant worker:** "A migrant worker is a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national." (Art 2.1).

## Categories of migrant workers (UN ICMW, 1990):

- **Frontier worker**
  - migrant worker who retains his or her habitual residence in a neighbouring State to which he or she normally returns every day or at least once a week

- **Seasonal worker**
  - refers to a migrant worker whose work by its character is dependent on seasonal conditions and is performed only during part of the year;

- **Seafarer** (including fishermen)
  - refers to a migrant worker employed on board a vessel registered in a State of which he or she is not a national;

Categories of migrant workers (cont'd):

- **Worker on an offshore installation**:
  - migrant worker employed on an offshore installation that is under the jurisdiction of a State of which he or she is not a national;

- **Itinerant worker**:
  - migrant worker who, having his or her habitual residence in one State, has to travel to another State or States for short periods, owing to the nature of his or her occupation;

- **Project-tied worker**:
  - migrant worker admitted to a State of employment for a defined period to work solely on a specific project being carried out in that State by his or her employer

1. ???

International migrants

2. ???

Migrant workers
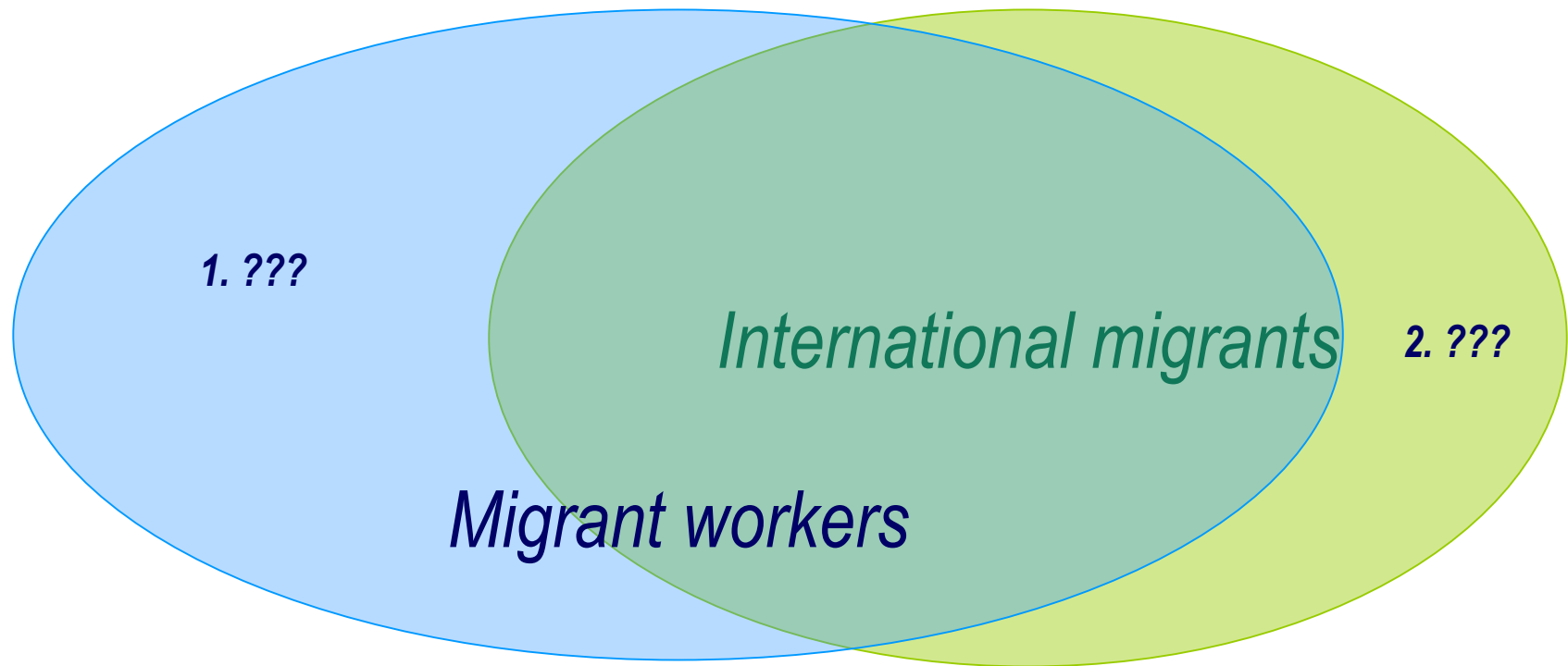
- **Essential criteria:**
  - Border-crossing
  - Country of origin (or **birth place**)
  - Country of destination (usual residence)

- **Additional elements needed:**
  - Duration in country of destination
    - less than 3 mo./ 3 mo. to less than 12 mo./ 12+ mo.
    - As per definition of usual residence
  - Citizenship

3. Statistical measurement (2): Migrant workers

- **Essential criteria:**
  - ***Citizenship*** *
  - Purpose of move: work-related (To seek work for pay/profit or To work for pay/profit, or other forms of work?)
  - Labour force status
- **Additional elements needed:**
  - Border crossing
  - Country of birth

(*) Due to its relevance to inform employment policies that define labour market rights on the basis of citizenship (ICMW, 1990).

Note: Change in usual residence & duration of move not essential.

- **ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration** (2006)

  "Knowledge and information are critical to **formulate, implement and evaluate labour migration policy and practice** and therefore its collection and application should be **given priority.**" *Principle III – Global Knowledge base*

- *UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (2013) has called for more data on international migration to facilitate links to development – labour migration data is key to this link.*

  Effective labour migration policies are needed to:

  - Respond to labour market needs in origin/destination countries (facilitate job/skills matching)
  - Ensure the protection of migrant workers
  - Tackle brain drain/de-skilling
  - Facilitate migrant workers integration in destination countries and reintegration
  - Ensure that labour migration is harmonized with employment and national development plans (including social protection policies, etc.)
  - Fight racism, xenophobia, stereotyping against migrant workers
  - *Evaluate the contribution of labour migration to development (UN HLD 2013).*

- *For monitoring the 2030 Development Agenda (migration within).*

4. Migration data needs (2)

To develop effective labour migration programs and policies statistical information is needed on flows & stocks of **international labour migrants** over time, including their labour market characteristics, such as:

- Number of labour migrants as a proportion of all migrants
- Demographic characteristics, incl. countries of origin and destination
- Occupations and skills
- working conditions (working hours, wages, resting period, contractual conditions etc.)
- Labour force participation (formal/informal economy)
- Social security coverage
- Labour market needs by sector/skills
- Migration status (documented / undocumented)
- Reasons for migration
- Length of stay(s)
- Remittances.

- **In 2017, the number of international migrants reached an estimated 258 million persons (UN-DESA, 2017: https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/international-migration-report-2017.html)**

- **Asia and Europe host the largest numbers of international migrants**

Figure 1: Number of international migrants by region of destination, 2000 and 2017 (millions)
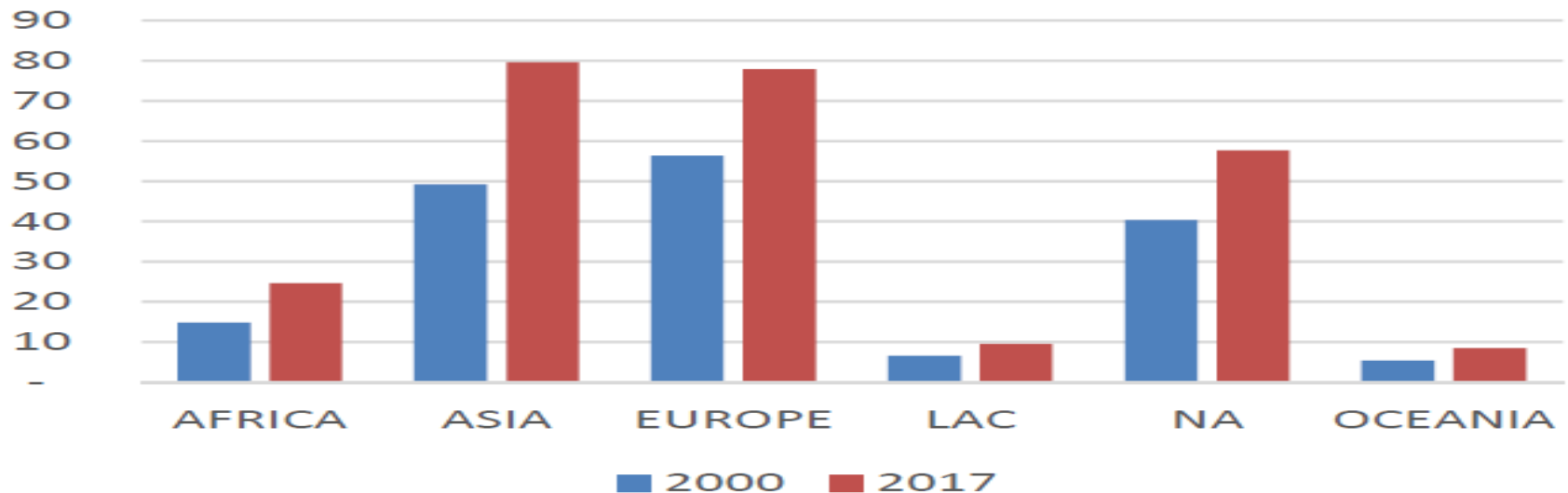
Note: NA = Northern America; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean

- **Asia and Europe are the top regions of origin for international migrants**

Figure 2: Distribution of international migrants by region of origin, 2000 and 2017
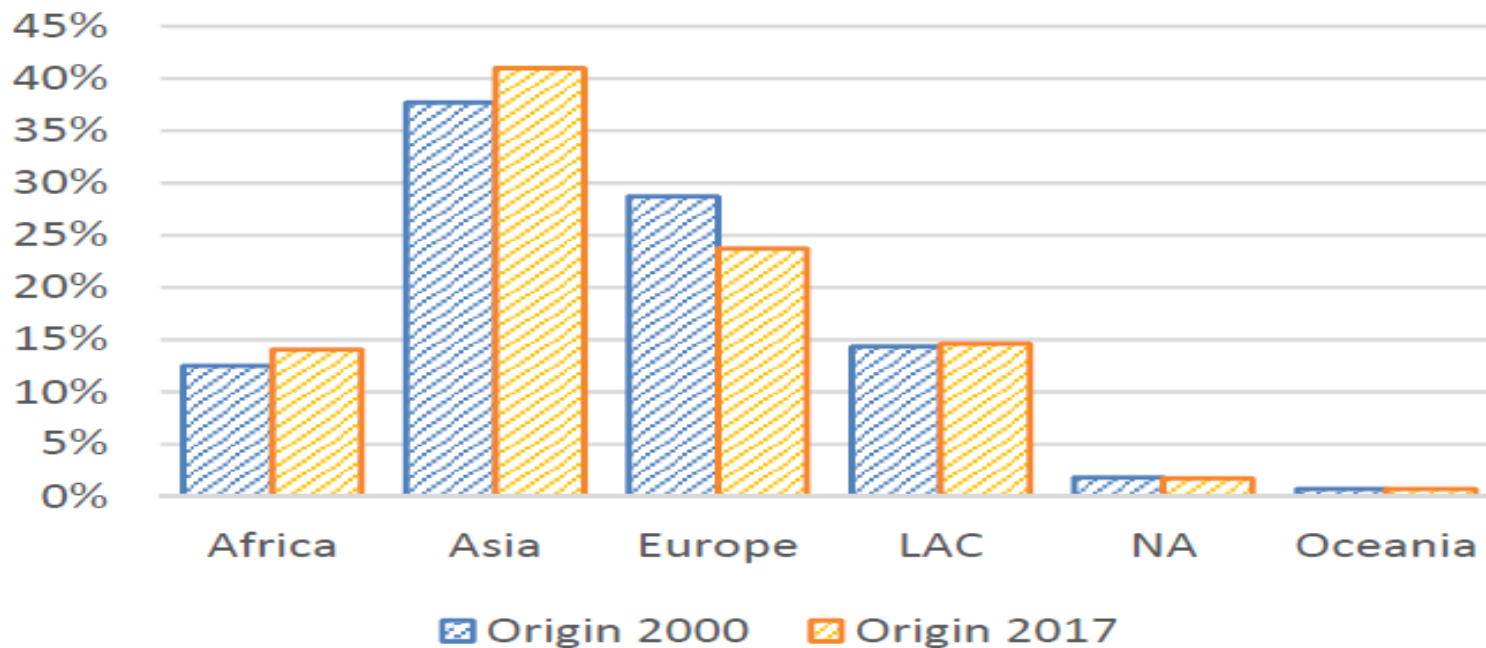
Note: NA = Northern America; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean

TABLE I.2. NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
AND REGION OF DESTINATION AND ORIGIN, 2017 (*millions*)

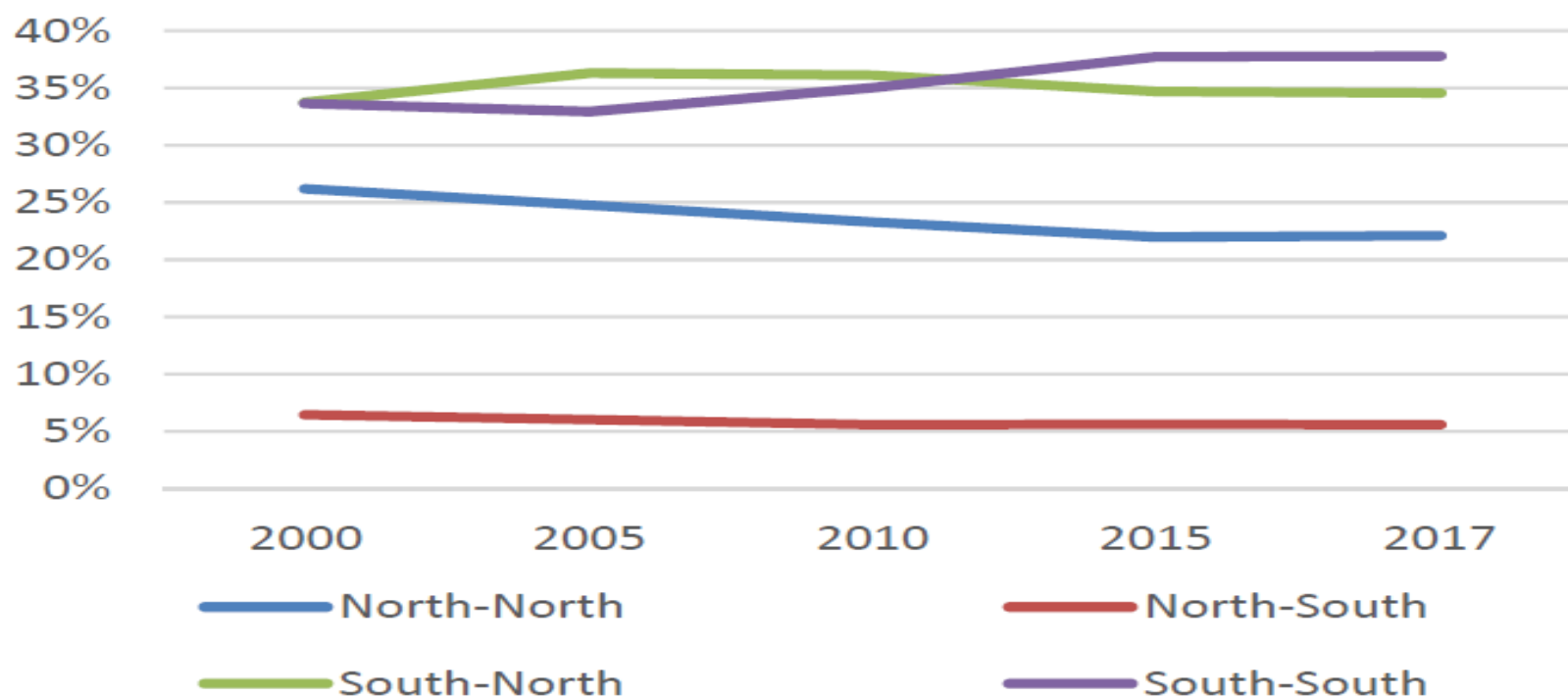| Destination	Developed regions	Developing regions	Origin							World
			Africa	Asia	Europe	LAC	NA	Oceania	Unknown	
Developed regions	56.9	89.0	12.4	42.6	51.8	31.4	2.5	1.7	3.6	**146.0**
Developing regions	14.4	97.4	23.8	63.1	9.4	6.3	1.9	0.2	6.9	**111.7**
Africa	2.3	22.3	19.4	1.2	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	3.0	**24.7**
Asia	9.2	70.4	4.4	63.3	7.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	3.7	**79.6**
Europe	43.3	34.6	9.3	20.5	41.0	4.6	1.0	0.4	1.1	**77.9**
LAC	2.9	6.6	0.1	0.3	1.3	6.1	1.4	0.0	0.3	**9.5**
NA	9.4	48.2	2.6	17.2	7.6	26.4	1.2	0.3	2.4	**57.7**
Oceania	4.2	4.2	0.5	3.2	3.1	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.1	**8.4**
World	**71.3**	**186.4**	**36.3**	**105.7**	**61.2**	**37.7**	**4.4**	**1.9**	**10.6**	**257.7**

Source: United Nations (2017a).
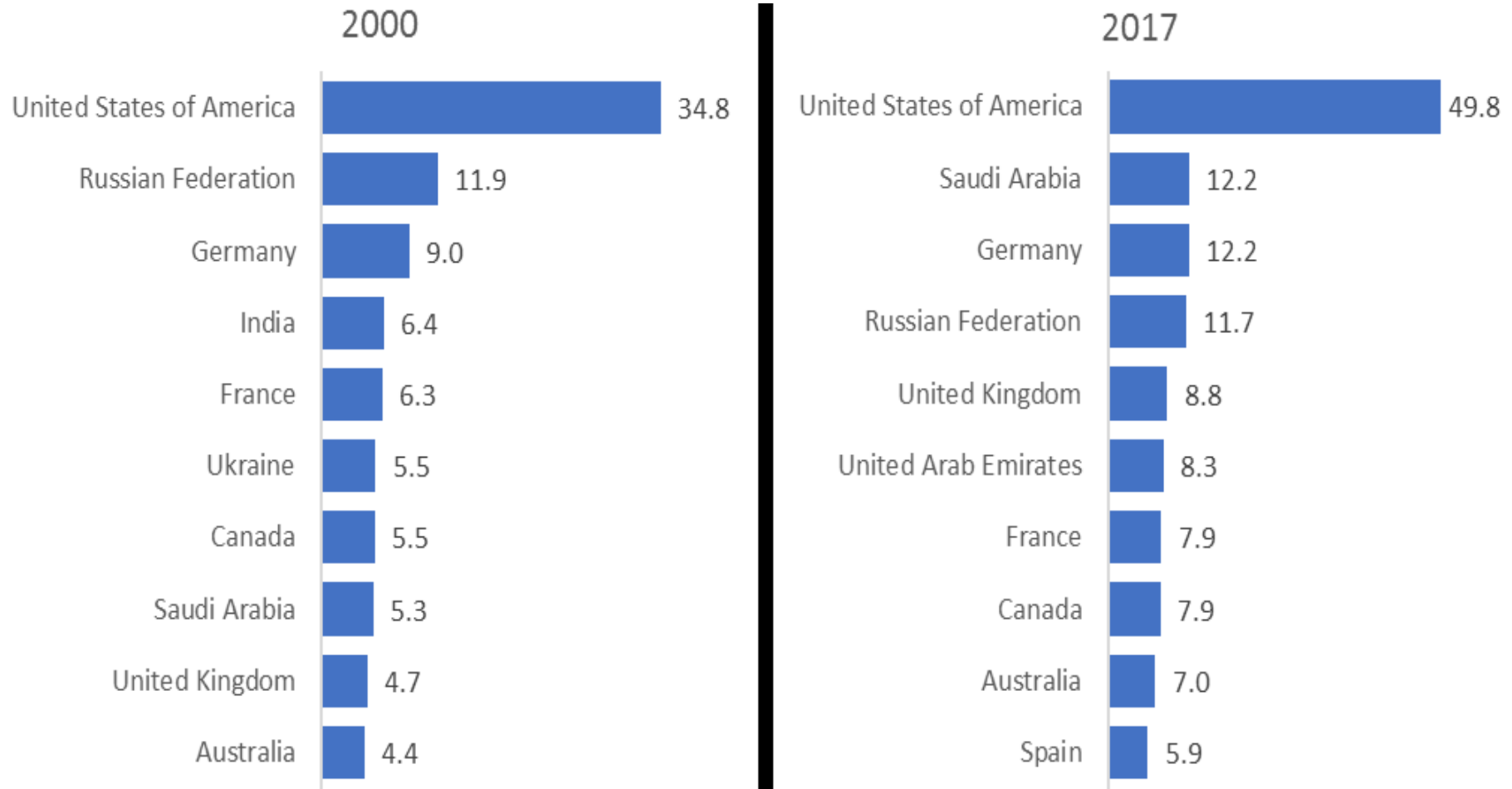NOTE: LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean, while NA refers to Northern America.

- **More international migrants from the South reside in the South than in the North**

Figure 3: Distribution of international migrants by development group at origin and destination, 2000-2017

- 10 largest countries hosting international migrants (2000 and 2017), millions (UNDESA)

2000

Country	Millions
United States of America	34.8
Russian Federation	11.9
Germany	9.0
India	6.4
France	6.3
Ukraine	5.5
Canada	5.5
Saudi Arabia	5.3
United Kingdom	4.7
Australia	4.4

2017

Country	Millions
United States of America	49.8
Saudi Arabia	12.2
Germany	12.2
Russian Federation	11.7
United Kingdom	8.8
United Arab Emirates	8.3
France	7.9
Canada	7.9
Australia	7.0
Spain	5.9

- 150.3 million migrant workers in 2013 (44.3% are women), including 11.5 migrant domestic workers (73.4% are women); (ILO, 2015).

Migrants
(232 million)

Migrants 15+
(207 million)

Migrant workers
(150 million)

Migrant domestic workers
(11.5 million)
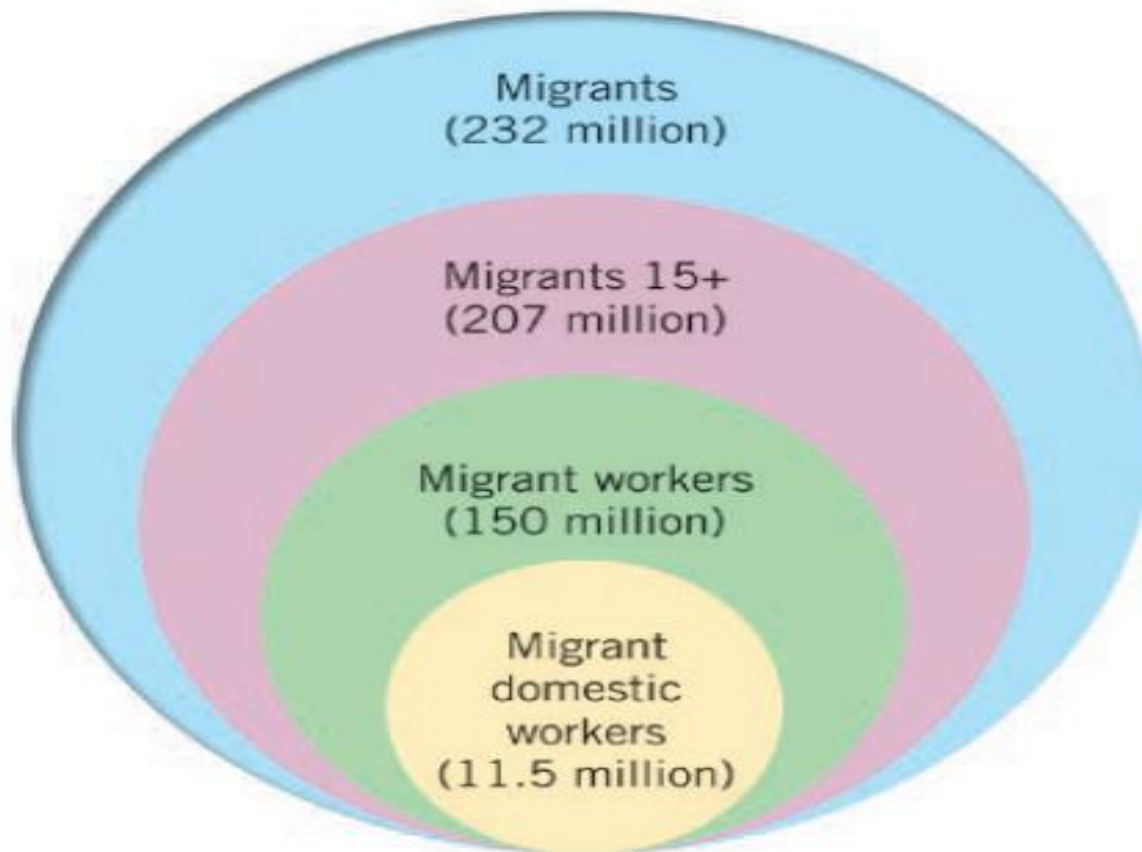
6. Remittances (1): International Standards

- **IMF, Balance of Payment Statistics**
  - Household income from foreign economies arising mainly from the temporary or permanent movement of people to those economies
  - Include cash and non-cash items that flow through formal or informal channels across borders
    - Funds and non-cash items sent or given by individuals who have migrated to a new economy and become residents there
    - Net compensation of border, seasonal, and short-term workers who are temporarily employed in an economy in which they are not resident

6. Remittances (2): Core items

Individual (current/return migrants)	**Household**
• Remittances sent in ref. period	• Remittances received in a reference period (12 months)
• Recipients of remittances	• Relationship of senders to HH
– Household, other	• Kind (cash, in kind)
• *Countries*	• Frequency & amounts
• Type (cash, in kind)	• Channels for transfer
• Duration (residence)	• Uses of remittances
• Frequency & amounts	
• Channels for transfer	
• Uses of remittances	• *Transfers made to other countries*

- ILO International **Labour Migration module** (*in progress*) in household surveys (LFS);

- ILO Labour Migration Database (ILOSTAT)
    - 12 basic tables containing estimates of demographic stocks/flows and labour migrant stocks/flows (**includes ILMS**);

- Working group for developing international standards (in progress)
    - 19th ICLS recommended this working group (Resolution IV)
    - Developing draft **international standards on labour migration statistics** (to be presented at the 20th ICLS, October 2018);

- Measuring recruitment costs in collaboration with the World Bank (**SDGs Indicator 10.7.1**; for guidelines by the 20th ICLS).

I. Current usual members of household (living in HH for most of 12mo)

↓

Section: Household roster & demographics

↓ *Age 15+ years*

Section: Labour force

↓

Employed

↓

Main /Second job ... Place of work

↓ *Abroad*

Border workers Seasonal workers Itinerant workers

Job search

↓

Availability

II. Former usual members of household (who left to go abroad for 12+ mo in X-X)

↓

Current migrant workers

↓

Section: Roster & demographics

III. Current usual members of household (who arrived/ returned from abroad in X-X)

↓

Non-migrants

Current migrants Return migrant workers

↓

Section: Current/Last trip Section: Before trip Section: Remittance behaviour Section: Recruitment costs

↓

(Section: Future plans to migrate)