

ACTION 1

ESTABLISH REVIEW AND REPORTING PROCESSES

The GCM establishes the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) as the primary intergovernmental platform for Member States to share progress on GCM implementation. Acknowledging that most international migration takes place within regions, the GCM also calls for regional reviews (GCM, para. 50). The GCM encourages that these reviews be informed by national reviews and supported by practicable, ambitious national responses, including through the use of national implementation plans (GCM, para. 53). Finally, the GCM requests biennial reports from the UN Secretary-General to the General Assembly. Each of these review and reporting processes is detailed in this section.



Six-step process

Extract from [Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Guidance for governments and all relevant stakeholders](#)

THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

The main reporting mechanism for the GCM is the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which will take place every four years beginning in 2022. The IMRF will serve as the primary intergovernmental platform to discuss and share progress on implementing all aspects of the GCM, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda. It will allow for interaction with other relevant stakeholders to build upon accomplishments and identify opportunities for further cooperation. The modalities for the IMRF are detailed in Resolution 73/326 adopted by the General Assembly 19 July 2019 (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/international-migration-review-forum-2022>). Each edition of the IMRF will result in an intergovernmentally agreed Progress Declaration. A dedicated IMRF website (www.un.org/migration2022) maintained by the UN Network on Migration provides further details and timely updates regarding IMRF preparations and timelines.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GCM REVIEWS

Member States' participation in the IMRF, which will take place every four years beginning in May 2022, should be meaningfully informed by both national and regional reviews.

■ **National reviews**, also referred to as voluntary GCM reviews, conducted by governments should regularly and inclusively examine progress on GCM implementation and inform future planning and activities. National review mechanisms, described in **Step 5**, should be embedded in governments' formal plans for GCM implementation, whether these are separate national GCM implementation plans or otherwise, and should draw on meaningful contributions from all relevant stakeholders (GCM, para. 53).

■ **Regional reviews**, which will also take place every four years, began in 2020 and alternate with discussions at the global level. In line with the GCM, these regional reviews are to be carried out by relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the UN regional economic commissions and regional consultative processes on migration. Like national reviews, these regional reviews should also embrace the participation of all relevant stakeholders (GCM, para. 50).

A dedicated webpage for regional reviews managed by the UN Network on Migration (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/regional-reviews>) provides information on both the preparatory process as well as outcomes of GCM regional reviews. Inputs by Member States and stakeholders are collated under dedicated portals for each region, including all voluntary national reviews of GCM implementation submitted through the regional review process.

BIENNIAL REVIEWS OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The GCM also requests that the UN Secretary-General, drawing on the UN Network for Migration, report to the General Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the GCM, the activities of the UN system in this regard and the functioning of the institutional arrangements (GCM, para. 46). The UN Secretary-General Reports can be accessed on the UN Network on Migration's website.

CONGRUENCE WITH EXISTING REPORTING MECHANISMS FOR OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

All GCM-related reporting processes should feed into existing mechanisms tracking progress on other international agreements (see the list that follows). Given that the GCM is firmly anchored in the 2030 Agenda, strong links should be fostered between the IMRF and VNRs, which can and should mutually support each other. The UN Network on Migration will develop dedicated guidance on this topic through the Network Workplan (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/about/united-nations-network-migration-workplan>). Please check the Migration Network Hub to leverage this guidance once released.

EXISTING REPORTING MECHANISMS FOR OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Voluntary national reviews (VNRs)

VNRs highlight the successes, challenges and lessons around implementing the 2030 Agenda, and are presented by governments every year at the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Voluntary local reviews (VLRs)

At the local level, different municipalities are also conducting voluntary local reviews (VLRs) in an effort to consolidate local implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These VLRs feed into national and regional reviews.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council

The UPR is a unique, State-driven process that involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States.

Country-level reporting done by human rights treaty bodies

Human rights treaty bodies are committees of independent experts that monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties (for example, ICERD, ICCPR, CEDAW, CRC). Each State party to a treaty has an obligation to take steps to ensure that everyone in the State can enjoy the rights set out in the treaty, and to report to the relevant treaty body regarding its progress.

A list of the core international human rights instruments and their monitoring bodies can be found at www.ohchr.org.

ACTION 2

PREPARE FOR REPORTING

Countries may take different approaches to GCM implementation reporting at the national, regional and global levels, depending on available resources and capacities. The following process supports States in preparing for regional reviews. All States are encouraged to engage actively to share progress, exchange positive practices and identify continuing challenges.

PREPARATION OF GCM REVIEWS

The first round of regional reviews was held in 2020, although some were delayed until early 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Regional Reviews are organized in line with the GCM's vision and guiding principles (GCM, paras. 8-15). Regional reviews provide an important opportunity for States to discuss migration dynamics at a regional level, which may help inform efforts to implement the GCM. To inform the regional reviews, States are encouraged to prepare voluntary reviews of GCM implementation progress at the national level. Such reviews should draw on contributions from all relevant stakeholders, as well as parliaments and local authorities. A roadmap to support these reviews has been shared by the Network ("IMRF Roadmap – Annex 2" available at <https://migrationnetwork.un.org>).

The following guiding principles inform the process for preparing regional reviews and intergovernmental meetings.³²

Preparatory process

- Stakeholders shall be meaningfully involved in supporting the preparation and organization of the reviews through appropriate methods of consultation.
- The Network, through its regional Networks and the Regional Economic Commissions, will support meaningful engagement of stakeholders in the preparation of a voluntary stocktaking of the implementation of the GCM at the national level (voluntary GCM review) to be presented during the regional review, as appropriate.
- A roadmap for Member States to review the status of implementation of the GCM at the national level has been prepared and distributed by the Network in preparation for the IMRF (“IMRF Roadmap – Annex 2”, available at <https://migrationnetwork.un.org>).
- The Network will provide an online space on the GCM Knowledge Platform dedicated to written submissions provided as part of the regional review process.
- Calls for inputs should facilitate wide participation of all relevant stakeholders by giving sufficient advance notice, disseminating a public call and making information as widely accessible as possible.

32. Adapted from: “Suggested checklist for preparing and organizing regional reviews” (UN Network on Migration, n.d.). Available at https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/default/files/docs/checklist_.pdf.

The inter-governmental meeting

- An open registration process is widely disseminated at least eight weeks in advance.
- Participation should aim to ensure representation of all stakeholder categories in each region among civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders.
- Due regard must be paid to ensure geographic balance, inclusion of marginalized groups and promotion of sectoral diversity, as well as a reflection of the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
- The Network will support the meaningful participation of stakeholders in the review meetings.
- If reviews are held virtually, the Network and Regional Economic Commissions can host virtual stakeholder consultations in the weeks leading up to the regional review meeting.
- The regional review meeting and the stakeholder consultation should be webcast.
- The Network and Regional Economic Commissions will hold a stakeholder evaluation session after each regional review.

Guidance provided by the Network

The Network plays a critical role in organizing regional reviews and has developed various guidance documents to this end, including:

- › An indicative outline for regional processes, platforms, organizations and stakeholders
- › An indicative outline for Member States
- › A suggested checklist for preparing and organizing regional reviews
- › A document on how to ensure meaningful engagement of civil society and relevant stakeholders for regional reviews

These guidance materials are available on the Network's website, <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/regional-reviews>, which will contain updated information as it is available.

GCM REGIONAL REVIEW REPORTS

Regional reviews could result in comprehensive reports that synthesize all inputs received, highlight issues and priorities of regional importance and propose roadmaps for regional action to advance GCM implementation. These reports could then serve as inputs to the IMRF.

Suggested structure for GCM regional review reports

- Introduction
(regional overview and background)
- Executive Summary
- Key Findings
- Good Practices and Lessons Learned
(selected from within the region)
- Conclusions and Recommendations
(for implementation and future regional review)
- Annex
(include organization of work and list of participants)