

Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund Consultative Forum 16 December 2020, 12:30 – 14:30 (CET)

The first Consultative Forum of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Migration MPTF) took place on 16 December 2020. The Forum was open to Member States, UN Network members, and all stakeholders, and the purpose was to provide an update on the status of the Fund (allocation decisions taken, key achievements and main challenges faced) and open the floor for Network members, Member States and stakeholders to discuss the Fund's current operations and future direction. Concerns, recommendations or suggestions raised during the Forum were brought by the Chair to the attention of the Steering Committee at its meeting held the following day on 17 December 2020.

The Forum started with opening remarks by the Chair of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund and Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, Mr António Vitorino. Then, a plenary discussion was held with six discussants, three representing different constituents of the Steering Committee, and three representing three out of the six joint programmes that were recently launched with funding from the Migration MPTF. The speakers were:

- H.E. Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany in Geneva;
- Mr Alejandro Dávalos, Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador in Geneva;
- Ms Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the Mayors Migrations Council;
- Mr Toni Pavloski, Director of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia;
- Mr Vincent Martin, UN Resident Coordinator in Guinea; and
- Mr Gustavo Gonzalez, UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines

Following the plenary discussions, the floor was opened for participants to make comments and/or ask questions. A number of comments from various stakeholders, notably from civil society were made, as well as a few questions posed regarding the approach and workings of the Fund.

The overall feedback received from the discussants and the participants was very positive, highlighting the strong alignment of the Fund with the GCM guiding principles and its positive role in the context of the UN reform. Key recommendations related to further strengthening the partnership with civil society and governments, in particular at sub-national level.

Finally, concluding remarks were made by Ms Jennifer Topping, the Executive Coordinator of the UNDP MPTF Office.