

18 August 2020

Subject: Regional Review on the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

Excellency,

Reference is made to the GCM, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh on 10 December 2018, and subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 2018 (A/RES/73/195). In particular, reference is made to paragraphs 48 and 50, which call for a state-led process of review of the implementation of the GCM, within the United Nations framework and with participation of all relevant stakeholders and further calls for reviews, beginning in 2020, of progress in this regard at the regional level.

Since the adoption of the GCM in December 2018, African Member States have embraced a State-led approach to its implementation, regularly consulting with the African Union Commission, the United Nations Network on Migration (the Network) and relevant stakeholders both at national, regional, and continental level.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) as the Coordinator of the Network, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union Commission (AUC) are working together to support the coherent implementation, follow-up, and review of the GCM in Africa. By this letter, we are proposing a review process which would take place at three levels: national, sub-regional and regional (continental) to prepare a regional review report that will ultimately contribute to the International Migration Review Forum in 2022.

You will find the proposed framework attached, which was shared with Member States and stakeholders in March 2020, and is available online at <https://www.migrationnetwork.un.org/supporting-material-regional-reviews>. This framework has at its core the following elements: recognition of the regional review being a Member State-led process; acknowledgement of multiple formats for the regional reviews of the GCM, with our proposal that the regional economic communities (RECs) are well-positioned to make a central contribution in this regard; consistency of approach within and between regions, including support provided by the whole UN system in line with the Network's method of working; and alignment with both the GCM's 360-degree approach as well as its vision and guiding principles.

The Kingdom of Morocco has indicated its interest to host the Africa regional review meeting in Morocco in December 2020 (the conditions to travel permitting due to Covid-19). As such, in the lead up to the regional review, the below listed steps are proposed:

Stage 1: Preparation of reports

- (i) National voluntary reports
- (ii) Sub-regional report
- (iii) Regional report

Stage 2: Consultations at various levels and with a range of stakeholders, including civil society

Stage 3: Regional review meeting in Morocco (conditions permitting) as mentioned above.

The specific dates of national and regional reviews as well as the reporting timelines will be provided in due course once necessary plans have been completed including the development and sharing of reporting templates.

We look forward to providing support to all African Member States to undertake the review. We also take note of our joint responsibility and partnership in the realization of the above-mentioned steps and remain committed to ensuring Member States achieve these targets for safe, orderly, and regular migration in Africa.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the joint organizing team of the Africa GCM Regional Review process as follows: Ms. Phumza Manqindi (pmanqindi@iom.int), Mr. Gideon Rutaremwa ([rutaremwa@un.org](mailto:rutaremw@un.org)), and Mr. Geoffrey Wafula (geoffreyk@africa-union.org) for any clarification and further information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



António Vitorino