

Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the UNECE region

12 and 13 November 2020

Roundtable 4 – Friday, 13 November, 13:30 – 15:10

GCM objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

GCM objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

GCM objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

GCM objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

GCM objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation & global partnerships for safe, orderly & regular migration

Background note

Roundtable 4 will focus on improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate and enhancing national and regional cooperation on migration on issues covered by the five GCM objectives above. These will be critical components to feed into the GCM’s Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub as sharing of best practices amongst states.

In keeping with GCM objective 1, this roundtable will consider experiences of building a global evidence base of migration data and effectively analysing and disseminating reliable, comparable and disaggregated data in order to guide coherent and evidence-based policymaking. This, in turn, can contribute to well-informed public discourse and allow for monitoring and evaluation, while upholding the right to privacy and data protection. There will be the scope to share best-practices in data gathering and disaggregation and inter-ministerial and regional data sharing practices as well as efforts to protect the right to privacy and data protection; building national capacities and systems; identifying and addressing data gaps; and effective analysis of data to demonstrate the benefits of migration.

Supported by effective data collection, GCM objective 3 considers practices and challenges in providing migrants with transparent information at all stages, from decision-making, to preparation, travel and arrival, and to use this information to provide predictability and certainty for all actors involved. Approaches for consideration could involve offering multiple channels for migrants to obtain official immigration-related information, including up-to-date guidelines in a variety of local languages, as well as creating national websites and providing child-sensitive and

gender-specific information along migratory routes. Thus, an emphasis on regional cooperation may be considered necessary.

This roundtable will further consider GCM objective 7 to respond to the needs of migrants who face situations of vulnerability, which may arise from the circumstances in which they travel or the conditions they face in countries of origin, transit and destination. This may include measures to provide assistance and protection in accordance with obligations under international law, to uphold the best interests of the child, and to apply a gender responsive approach at all times. Additional activities relating to this objective may include assessing existing policies to ensure they do not exacerbate vulnerabilities; establishing interagency partnerships to facilitate effective support, identification and assistance; facilitating access to regular migration pathways by streamlining procedures; developing gender-responsive migration policies to address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women, girls and boys; examining labour market policies to minimise the risk of exposure to vulnerabilities; establishing procedures for the protection of migrant children, including unaccompanied children; ensuring migrants have access to legal assistance; implementing practices to facilitate access for migrants in an irregular status to obtain regular status and implement recommendations of the UN system guidance on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. In addressing such vulnerabilities, this roundtable may provide a platform to consider states' and stakeholders' actions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst migrants are not inherently more vulnerable to, or at heightened risk of, contracting infectious diseases, the conditions in which they migrate, live or work can influence or compound health risks, including access to health services.

GCM objective 17 is a commitment to eliminate discrimination, racism and xenophobia against all migrants. Discussion under this objective might consider evidence-based public discourses that generates a more realistic, humane and constructive perceptions of migration. Participants may wish to discuss legislation that provides bases to prosecute perpetrators of these offenses, and methods of effective signposting for targeted migrants to receive legal support. Additional topics may also take into account regional approaches to promote awareness-raising targeted at communities of origin, transit and destination, and initiatives to support inter-agency cooperation between migrants, political, religious and community leaders, as well as educators and service providers to detect and prevent incidences of intolerance, racism, xenophobia.

GCM objective 23 is a commitment to enhanced global and regional partnerships in support of comprehensive and integrated approaches to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration in alignment with states' own national priorities and their Sustainable Development Goals, in which migration is a critical cross-cutting theme. Discussions pertaining to this objective might consider good practice and gaps in leveraging regional and national partnerships to support the implementation of the GCM, sharing best practice in capacity building, and capitalising on regional bilateral and multilateral cooperation to address opportunities and challenges of migration.

Lastly, this roundtable should consider the cross-cutting relevance of these five GCM objectives in the COVID-19 pandemic including in response and recovery efforts.

Guiding questions

All guiding questions should be assessed through the prism of the GCM's guiding principles, particularly through the whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, whilst also being gender-responsive and child-sensitive.

1. Is the current level of regional cooperation and dialogue sufficient to meet the ambitions of the GCM to exchange information on migration-related trends, including through joint databases, partnerships with academic research institutions, online platforms, international training centres and liaison networks, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data? (GCM objectives 1 and 23)
2. What existing partnerships can be built upon to ensure accurate and relevant information is disseminated to migrants? How are states communicating with newly arrived migrants and returnees on socio-economic opportunities and immigration law advice? (GCM objectives 3 and 23)
3. What examples of state-led interventions with media organizations have produced positive, evidence-based messaging on migration / tackled inflammatory reporting? How have states partnered with civil society, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders in developing public information initiatives? How can regional cooperation and peer learning platforms contribute in this regard? (GCM objectives 17)
4. What measures do states have in place - or should have in place - to reduce vulnerabilities of migrants? How do such measures incorporate the GCM's guiding principles of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach? (GCM objective 7)
5. How are states adapting their admission and stay procedures to the new realities of cross border human mobility since the outset of COVID-19? (GCM objective 7 and 23)

Background materials

[Video](#): The Global Compact for Migration in a Nutshell

UN Secretary-General [Policy Brief](#): COVID-19 and People on the Move

UN Network on Migration [Policy Brief](#): The Global Compact for Migration (GCM): Well Governed Migration as an Essential Element of Effective COVID-19 Response

UN Network on Migration [Statement](#): COVID-19 Does Not Discriminate; Nor Should Our Response

Communications

During the roundtable, the UN Network on Migration secretariat will live tweet from its [Twitter account](#) (@UNMigNetwork).

If there is content you would like to share publicly via the Network's channel, you can send it to the team via direct messages during the event.

To tweet during the event, the following hashtags can be used: #GlobalCompactforMigration and #GCM

All materials related to this meeting are available [here](#).