



Champion Country Concept Note: Support Measures for the Successful Implementation of the GCM

Background

The [United Nations Network on Migration](#) (Network) is mandated to ensure effective, timely and coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States to achieve the 23 objectives outlined in the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#).

In July 2019, the Network released its [inaugural workplan](#) focusing on key issues where the UN system can add value in delivering concrete results as a matter of priority in supporting GCM implementation. Workstreams 1 and 2, identified as part of the workplan's core priorities, are dedicated to establishing the Capacity Building Mechanism called for in the GCM; to bolstering the capacity of the UN system at global, regional and country levels to support Member States to implement the GCM; and to supporting Member States in the development of GCM national implementation plans (NIPs). The Network's initial six thematic workstreams will focus on supporting Member States to achieve specific GCM objectives or actions through the development of tools that will support the operational rollout of the GCM from a thematic perspective.

2020 is a pivotal year for the acceleration of GCM implementation regarding regional GCM reviews to culminate in the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) planned in 2022. Accordingly, the Network foresees supporting Member States in taking a tailored approach to GCM implementation, follow-up and review based upon the unique context of each country, while aligning with the GCM's 360-degree vision and guiding principles.

Specifically, **champion countries ('champions')** are being identified in order to participate in a piloting process for some of the related activities envisioned in the Network's workplan and to represent a migration narrative drawing from the values and principles of the GCM. They represent one component of how the Network will support Member States with GCM implementation, follow-up and review. This is designed to provide an inclusive list of targeted Member States with explicit support, while also generating key insights, lessons learned, and positive practices that can be shared in dedicated spaces and with others.

Guiding principles

- In line with the GCM, being a champion country is entirely voluntary. Champions are not subject to any evaluation or review by the Network.
- There is no one size fits all approach and champions can remain guided by their own national realities and priorities;
- The overlap between initial champions countries and priority countries identified by the Steering Committee of the Migration MPTF is intentional. The Fund values greatly the national commitment to implement the GCM reflected in the champions initiative; however, only its Steering Committee can make decision on fund allocations.

Role of champion countries

Further to the first consultation with champion countries, their role and contribution could initially include:

- Generating key insights, lessons learned, and positive practices that can be shared in dedicated spaces amongst champions and with other Member States, building on and benefiting from targeted support by the Network.
- Through sharing their best practices and experiences, champion countries can contribute to the development of the Connection Hub and Global Knowledge Platform.
- Champion countries can offer to be a testing spaces for guidance material and tools, technical assistance, and other support rendered under the Network's workplan, acting as a foundation for future Network actions. Through this process, tailored activities will be rolled out in identified champion countries with a view to seek inputs, assess guidance material and tools effectiveness and efficacy on the ground and to draw from the expertise and lessons learned through these countries' experiences. Champion countries are invited to support activities, webinars or events of the Network.
- Champion countries can play a critical role in demonstrating support for the GCM, including by galvanizing support for a productive process of the regional reviews; implementing and / or fund MPTF joint programmes at national level; sharing insights as to how to implement the GCM at national level in line with the GCM vision and guiding principles; and playing a convening or leadership role at the regional and international levels in support of GCM implementation, follow-up and review.
- Champion countries can serve as powerful voices to foster the implementation of the GCM and to represent a migration narrative drawing from the values and principles of the GCM, increasing its visibility as a crucial framework for well-managed migration governance.

Anticipated support

Within this context, champion countries will be able draw upon a range of support measures from the Network:

- **National implementation planning.** Support in the development of GCM national implementation plans, where relevant. Alternatively, the Network can advise on the mainstreaming of GCM objectives into existing national policies.
- **Support in implementing specific GCM objectives.** Targeted technical and capacity-building support on priority issues in accordance with national realities and through the activities of the Network's thematic areas.
- **Strengthened UN system coordination.** Support of UN Country Teams, where applicable, as well as national or regional UN Networks, or other UN coordination structures that are being mobilized to support GCM implementation.
- **Knowledge management and information sharing.** The identification of positive practices and lessons learnt from a wide range of stakeholders and across countries/regions through the GCM's Global Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub, which are envisioned to ensure that relevant knowledge, experience and expertise can be accessed and leveraged by Member States to develop tailor-made GCM solutions.

- **Reporting.** Technical support, where called for, to review and report on the implementation of all aspects of the GCM, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will include support to prepare for the IMRF and Regional Review processes with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

Timeline

The champion countries initiative, launched at the informal consultation on 3 September 2020, shall initially continue through to the first IMRF in 2022. Champion countries will receive on-going support from the Network to organise national consultations with all relevant stakeholders, contribute to the Regional Reviews, the UN Secretary General Report and to the IMRF. In addition, champion countries may request additional technical assistance in accordance with national needs, including in the context of regional or sub-regional programmes. Feedback and recommendations garnered throughout the process will be encouraged on a rolling basis to support a process of continuous improvement and learning in the Network.

Inputs gathered through the initiative will be used to adjust and refine the guidance materials and technical assistance to be provided by the Network Working Groups to Member States. The updated guidance material and tools will benefit from champion countries' feedback on the acquired learning and concrete adaptations will be made as a result of their involvement in early phases of validation. Further, the updated material and refined provision of technical assistance will be rolled out in additional countries to support Member States with GCM implementation. The Network will promote dialogue between champion countries and other Member States to exchange on their experiences and share views at national, regional and global levels, and with relevant stakeholders.

In addition, this initiative can be used to create a space for exchange of information, key insights, lessons learned, and positive practices generated through the development of guidance materials and the implementation of the GCM. In this regard, the Network will support the organization of demand-driven and periodic meetings of champions at both national and global level, bringing in, where needed, the thematic technical expertise, and assist champion countries in engaging with other Member States either through stand-alone meetings or providing space in the Coordinator's briefings.

Champion country identification

Champion countries are being identified through a collaborative process undertaken within the context of UN Network on Migration involving discussions at global and national levels. The process will seek to ensure adequate consultation with governments, the UN system, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, consistent with the GCM's guiding principles. The agreement of the government to become a champion country is essential.

The initial list of Member States which accepted to become champion countries comprises, per region: **Asia/Pacific** (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines); **East Africa** (Ethiopia); **Latin America and the Caribbean** (El Salvador, Mexico); **Middle East and North Africa** (Morocco); **West Africa** (Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Senegal); **Western Europe and Other Group** (Canada, Portugal).

To inform the champion country identification process and discussion, the Network's Executive Committee has established a set of minimum guiding criteria in line with the GCM guiding principles against which champion countries should be identified. The minimum criteria include:

- Geographical balance;
- Respect for the GCM 360-degree vision;
- The commitment of the host government in question;
- The existence of a UN Migration Network or other UN-system coordination mechanism and support of the UN Resident Coordinator, where applicable;

- Compatibility and synergies with other processes, such as the CCA and UNSDCF cycles and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The Network promotes the inclusive and participatory nature of this initiative, encouraging other Member States to express their interest in becoming GCM champion countries.

As countries agree to become champions, the Network will engage with them to facilitate their contribution to this process. Network support is not limited to champion countries. Rather, champion countries represent one way the Network will implement aspects of the inaugural workplan in 2020.

Contact

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