



Summary of GCM Champions meeting

26 May 2021

The latest meeting of the Champion countries for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) took place on 26 May 2021. It included a briefing by the Network Coordinator, IOM Director General António Vitorino, and consultation with co-leads of the [Network's thematic working group on Alternatives to Detention](#) (the International Detention Coalition, UNHCR and UNICEF).

The meeting was attended by 89 participants representing Member States, and UN Network entities at both headquarters and country levels.

In his opening remarks, the Coordinator emphasised:

- That we currently have [22 Champion countries](#) yet need to both extend the membership of this initiative and provide opportunities for Champions to more publicly voice their support of the GCM, including at the forthcoming and last GCM regional review, in Africa, set for 12-13 July; the July 2021 HLPF, September 2021 UNGA, and November 2021 UNFCCC COP26.
- The new [Network workplan](#) which focuses activities towards the first [International Migration Review Forum \(IMRF\) in 2022](#). This workplan has been shared widely and will be part of the Network briefing for Member States on 24 June.
- Importance of the champions continued leadership and engagement to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive partnership towards a successful IMRF. Future meetings of the Champions will include a more specific discussion on how best to ensure momentum towards this first global review.
- The forthcoming Secretary-General's Report to provide both policy and organizational guidance to the IMRF, likely to be released in February 2022.
- [That there are now 51 country-level Networks, with 14 operating in Champion countries, plus 6 regional Networks or other strengthened existing migration platforms.](#)
- The Migration Network Hub online platform to support discussions on GCM implementation, including relevant Network material such as [Implementing the GCM: Guidance for governments and all relevant stakeholders](#).
- That seven joint programmes supported by the [Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#), are currently being implemented, covering all five thematic areas and all continents, with an additional thirty-two joint programme ideas positively assessed for additional support upon additional resourcing. The Fund mobilized approximately USD17.5m by the end of 2020, has a set target of USD30m for 2021, and has only secured 10% so far. He acknowledged the work and support of those Champions who have been members of the Steering Committee during these first two years of the Fund - Ecuador, Morocco and Thailand - and welcomed Ghana, Iraq and Mexico in joining.

Those Champions providing interventions included: Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal and Thailand.

Many thanked the Coordinator and Network for the support provided thus far including at country level. Many welcomed the new Network workplan and opportunities to discuss certain thematic priorities based on the Champions' needs. The recent GCM regional review for Latin America and



the Caribbean with different side events on gender and regularization, respectively, was cited as a good example of Champions' mobilization in support of the GCM.

Several referenced the upcoming IMRF, and looked forward to receiving the Network's suggested roadmap, using targeted events to voice support for the GCM.

Others supported the idea of adopting a "pledging approach" in the IMRF to facilitate the implementation of the GCM objectives. This tool will allow States and other Stakeholders the flexibility to take concrete and measurable commitments adapted to their specific priorities and contexts.

A ministerial gathering of Champions was suggested as a way to reinforce their commitment to GCM implementation. It was also proposed to have a joint Champions statement at the upcoming HLPF.

The whole-of-government and whole-of-society GCM principles were supported in GCM implementation, including as a means to strengthen partnerships with the GFMD, private sector, local governments and youth.

Many thanked the Coordinator for the mobilization of funds to the Migration MPTF and called for others to also contribute.

The Network's thematic working group co-leads on Alternatives to Detention consulted with the Champions on their upcoming second global peer learning exchange on 29 June. The co-leads reflected on the first global peer learning exchange from November 2020 which gathered more than 110 participants including over 60 officials from 32 countries, including Champions. Many governments exchanged ways in which they piloted alternatives to immigration detention options in the context of COVID-19 to prevent further transmission and discussed ways in which to scale up these initiatives. For the upcoming second global peer learning exchange, the co-leads suggested focusing from the following issues: public perceptions; whole-of-government approach; the ethical use of technology; and case management.

The Champions were supportive of this forthcoming event, with many offerings and considerations to co-sponsor it. Many supported in particular the focus on case management and suggested that unaccompanied minors could be a focus of a future peer learning exchange. A brief video on the immigration detention of children produced by the Network thematic working group on Alternatives to Detention can also be found [here](#).

In conclusion, the Coordinator thanked the Champions for their participation and support, also towards enlarging the group and its profile on the GCM. He noted opportunities ahead towards the IMRF for the Champions to enhance the visibility and advocacy for the GCM. These included Member States' inputs to the forthcoming SG's Report and what types of conclusions and recommendations we may wish to see coming out of the IMRF. These ideas will be captured in the Network's forthcoming roadmap for the IMRF.

The Coordinator also expressed cautious optimism towards a number of approaches to the GCM of late, not only for its effective implementation during the pandemic, but also for the protection and respect for the human rights of all migrants. He expressed hope and expectation that the political environment around the GCM will be less polarized than in the past and that we should collectively benefit from that momentum. He offered the Network's support to the Champions for the HLPF.