

## Stakeholder Consultations for the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

Wednesday, 3 February 2021, 11:00-14:30 hrs. (Bangkok-time)  
Online (via Zoom)

**Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration** (Addressing GCM objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23)

### Concept Note

#### 1. Introduction

The Regional Review of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is scheduled to be held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 March 2021. As part of the regional review process, the United Nations Regional Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific<sup>1</sup> is committed to enabling the meaningful engagement of stakeholders, in line with the principles underpinning a 'whole-of-society' approach.

The UN Regional Network on Migration is organizing four stakeholder consultations to inform the regional review process. The four consultations correspond with the four clusters of the GCM objectives envisaged for the Roundtables of the International Migration Review Forum to be held in 2022, according to the UN General Assembly Resolution 73/326.

The fourth stakeholder consultation is on: *'Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration'* and addresses the following objectives of the GCM:

1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

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<sup>1</sup> The Regional Network is comprised of all United Nations agencies at the regional level in the Asia-Pacific wishing to join. IOM's Regional Office for Asia-Pacific serves as the Coordinator and Secretariat of the Regional Network. The Executive Committee of the Regional Network comprises of ESCAP, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UN DRR, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, and UN Women.

## 2. Purpose of the Stakeholder Consultations

The purpose of the Stakeholder Consultations is to facilitate and strengthen collaboration and participation in the regional review process.

Through consultation, stakeholders' views and experiences are sought in relation to the objectives of the Regional Reviews, namely to:

- Take stock of the overall progress of implementation of objectives to date
- Identify key challenges, opportunities, gaps and emerging issues
- Identify established and emerging good practices and lessons learnt
- Identify resource requirements and capacity building needs
- Formulate recommendations

## 3. Content and format

The consultation will consist of an opening plenary session, followed by two working group sessions, and a closing plenary session. Please see the agenda for more details.

Two parallel working groups will address the GCM objectives relevant to the theme of this consultation, with objective 23 (on international cooperation and global partnerships) being discussed by both groups given its broad and encompassing nature, as follows:

- **Working Group 1:** objectives 1, 3, 23
- **Working Group 2:** objectives 7, 17, 23

The consultation is a closed meeting and will not be recorded. In order to have open and frank discussions, it will follow the Chatham House Rule, which means that participants are free to use the information received but may not reveal the identity or the affiliation of the speaker(s), or of any other participant.

Registration for the Consultation will close on **Sunday 31 January at 24:00 hrs (Bangkok-time)**.

## 4. Organizing team

This Stakeholder Consultation is co-designed and implemented by a team of stakeholders and UN agencies.<sup>2</sup>

## 5. Participants

It is anticipated that participation in the stakeholder consultations will be balanced with regard to locations, genders and thematic and sectoral areas of work.

To ensure diverse representation in the consultation, no more than two people per organization are invited to participate.

Please see stakeholder categories, as identified in UN General Assembly Resolution 73/195 and 73/326 and listed in the Background Note on Stakeholder Engagement for the regional review in the Asia-Pacific, listed below).

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<sup>2</sup> The organizing team includes Civil Society for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM), ICRC, IFRC, IOM and OHCHR.

Please feel free to forward the invitation to colleagues and partners, keeping in mind that all participants need to register for the meeting by **Sunday 31 January at 24:00 hrs (Bangkok-time)**.

## 6. Expected outcomes and next steps

This consultation seeks to provide an opportunity for meaningful, inclusive, transparent and diverse participation by a range of stakeholders to review progress on GCM objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23 in the Asia-Pacific.

A summary report drafted by the Regional United Nations Network on Migration, and in coordination with the organizers of the consultation will be posted on the ESCAP and the United Nations Network on Migration websites.

## 7. Background

In Resolution 73/195 (“Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”), the United Nations General Assembly:

- Committed to a whole-of-society approach promoting broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance (para 15 (j)).
- Committed to implementing the Global Compact at the national, regional and global levels in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders including migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders (para 41 and 44).

## 8. Background document

[Engagement of civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)

## 9. Further details on GCM objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23<sup>3</sup>

1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated **data** as a basis for evidence-based policies
3. Provide accurate and timely **information** at all stages of migration
7. **Address and reduce vulnerabilities** in migration
17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote **evidence-based public discourse** to shape perceptions of migration
23. Strengthen **international cooperation and global partnerships** for safe, orderly and regular migration

*Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies*  
Asia-Pacific countries generally collect data on movements of people, immigration documentation (including visas, work permits etc.) issued to non-citizens. These data cover origin country and

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<sup>3</sup> The information is based on the [Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020](#) produced by members of the UN Regional Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific.

sex, although tabulations by sex are often not prepared or publicly available. Accurate, reliable, timely data that are disaggregated by sex, age, migration status, disability and other characteristics are vital for informed public discourse and the formulation of evidence-based and gender-response policies. This is important not only for policymakers but also for migrants and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

*Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration*

Safe, orderly and regular migration thus requires informed and empowered migrants. The lack of accurate information about migration processes leaves migrants profoundly disempowered. In the absence of accurate and timely information throughout the migration process, migrants may be unaware of their rights and responsibilities, leaving them prey to exploitation based on misinformation, or falling into irregularity for procedural reasons. In addition to being accurate and timely, the provision of information is greatly enhanced when it is targeted to a specific audience and in a language or medium that is comprehensible.

*Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration*

This objective provides a normative guide to addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration. Throughout the migration process, migrant vulnerabilities are not inevitable, but rather the outcome of policies which render migrants vulnerable. States' existing commitments to protecting the human rights of migrants in origin, transit and destination countries are central to effectively addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration. This objective also calls attention to the nuances of vulnerability and the need for tailored approaches to address and reduce vulnerabilities of specific groups of people and sectors of society affected by migration, including women and children, recognising that other migrants, particularly those in irregular situations, can also be in situations of vulnerability.

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

The principles of non-discrimination and elimination of racial discrimination as outlined in international law lie at the heart of this objective. This objective also promotes open and evidence-based public discourse on migration and migrants in partnership with all parts of society, generating a more realistic, humane and constructive perception in this regard. Different forms of discrimination, fed by negative public perceptions, stigma and xenophobia, are at the root of policies making migration unsafe, disorderly and irregular. Discrimination reflects and feeds negative public perceptions of migrants, and can have a corrosive effect on wider society, breaking down trust and hindering meaningful inclusion of migrants in communities. The principle of non-discrimination is a fundamental tenet of international human rights law, and applies equally to all migrants, regardless of status.

*Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration*

As Member States recognized in the Global Compact for Migration, "no State can address migration on its own because of its inherently transnational nature", and involving countries of origin, transit and destination. Gaps between jurisdictions created by differing definitions, understandings and laws, can be enabling factors for the abuse of migrants throughout the migration cycle. International cooperation helps secure "triple win" outcomes (for origin and destination countries and migrants themselves) and is thus crucial to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration as well as support achievement of SDG 17.

Additional information is available on the dedicated UN ESCAP [website](#)