



United Nations  
Network on Migration

*Working Better Together*

**DG Script**  
**Asia Pacific Regional Review Meeting**  
**Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**  
**10-12 March 2021, 09:00-10:00 (ICT)**  
**Check against delivery**

Excellencies,  
Honorable Guests,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Colleagues,

A very good morning to you all.

Allow me to *(add my)* welcome *(to)* you to this meeting, convened in these uncertain times in the shadows of the COVID-19 pandemic -- which has prevented me from being able to join you in person, much as I would have preferred to have done so.

I would like to thank the ESCAP Executive Secretary, *Ibu* Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana for her dedicated support for the GCM regional review process and that of her team, who have supported the organization of this meeting for ESCAP Member States, partners, observers and stakeholders.

Today's meeting is largely informed by the substantive contributions provided by governments to a voluntary regional review survey shared in the previous year. In addition, numerous partners, stakeholders in the lexicon of the GCM, worked closely with the UN Network on Migration in the lead up to this meeting, in organizing and participating in consultations geared at informing the regional review process. Your engagement is invaluable.

I want to especially acknowledge the bold undertaking made by Member States that have joined the Champions initiative, a third of whom are from Asia and the Pacific – namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand. I applaud their commitment to *lead by example and empower through experience* and extend the invitation to the initiative to all States.

I am grateful to the Kingdom of Thailand for being both a donor to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund and Steering Committee member; and to the Republic of Turkey for having also contributed to the Fund. I invite you all to contribute to the broadening as well as deepening of

the donor base of the Migration MPTF, as the only joint funding mechanism exclusively dedicated to migration.

As we look towards the first International Migration Review forum in 2022, and operationalizing the workplan of the Network, I am pleased to inform you that the Network will soon launch the Migration Network Hub as called for in the GCM. As one of the element of the Capacity Building Mechanism, the Hub will facilitate peer-learning, exchanges of good practices, and providing a platform for dialogues – we count on your continued support and collaboration, including in the socialization of the GCM at all levels – national, regional and global.

Excellencies,

We are at an unprecedented moment in time -- living with and through a pandemic that has shaken the international community to its very core.

The pandemic has highlighted the challenges that too many migrants face, and how they have often been left behind in efforts to prevent, curb and now inoculate against the virus.

As the world turns its attention to the vaccine rollout, I call on governments to ensure that non-nationals are included in the various prioritization tier groups they identify, irrespective of legal status.

The Global Compact is rooted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its commitment to “leave no one behind”. Evidence from across the globe has shown time and time again, that migration can be a powerful driver of sustainable development for migrants and their communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

The contribution of migrants in many critical service areas before, during, and after the worst of the pandemic’s waves are of inestimable value. From healthcare to logistics, from food supply chains to agriculture and social services, migrants working alongside nationals have risen to the challenge and made a marked contribution to the communities they have joined as well as those they have come from.

Asia and the Pacific is comprised of several distinct sociocultural, political and economic subregions. Each with unique mobility and development dynamics within and between them.

Disparities in levels of socioeconomic development and the existence of opportunities within countries and subregions continue to shape migration patterns, and increasingly prompt dialogue and cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and pan-regional levels.

Disasters and natural hazards, which are expected to increase in scale and intensity with climate change and environmental degradation, are a constant threat to the region's population and economies.

Connected to this, violence against women and girls, including gender-based violence, has been shown to increase in prevalence and severity in communities experiencing a disaster.

We must do more to protect women, children from violence, especially in the context of migration – now exacerbated by the scourge of COVID-19.

The region faces many and daunting challenges.

But none that are insurmountable, especially if and when we stay true to the call to advance our collective efforts to work better together for safe, orderly and regular migration.

I look forward to the discussions that will be held over the course of the next three days and assure you of the steadfast support of the Network, and myself as its Coordinator, to supporting you all, however best we can.

We value the important role you play in your respective country contexts, diplomatic missions, institutional settings, and/or or areas of expertise.

We welcome your guidance and support as we have this exchange on regional review of the implementation of the GCM in Asia and the Pacific.

Thank you.