



Champion countries initiative

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Champion countries initiative?

-  The UN Network on Migration (Network) seeks to generate momentum in support of the international community's efforts towards the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM.) The initiative offers an opportunity for Member States to share insights, lessons learned and promising practices to contribute to achieving the objectives of the GCM, consistent with the GCM vision and guiding principles.

This initiative is designed to provide targeted Member States with technical and capacity-building support from the Network guided by the realities and priorities of each country. Through the initiative, the Network seeks to showcase concrete examples on how to best implement, follow-up and review the GCM. It also aims at building awareness and strengthening technical understanding around the GCM, grounded in the pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Champions countries initiative represents a sign of confidence and solidarity of Member States with the GCM and the Network.

Who are the current GCM Champion countries?

-  As of 1 November 2020, 15 Member States have accepted to become Champion countries: Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Senegal); Asia/Pacific (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand); Latin America and the Caribbean (Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico); Western Europe and Other Group (Canada, Portugal).

Is it still possible for Member States to become Champion countries, and what is the process?

-  The initiative is a voluntary undertaking and is open to all Member States who wish to join. There is no deadline. Member States are welcome to express their interest by an official letter to the Network (unmignet@iom.int).

What is the role of Champion countries?

-  Champion countries can:
- Generate key insights, lessons learned, and promising practices that can be shared in dedicated spaces amongst Champions and with other Member States and relevant stakeholders;
 - Contribute to populate the Network's [Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub](#) – “The Migration Network Hub”- by sharing their existing practices and experiences;
 - Test and provide feedback on GCM guidance material and tools, technical assistance, and other support provided by the Network and promote wider distribution, dissemination of the guidance materials and tools, while contributing to the development of standard approaches in pilot phases moving along;
 - Demonstrate support for the GCM, including through their leadership and engagement in the multilateral processes on the GCM including the regional reviews; implementation of Migration MPTF joint programmes when applicable; sharing insights as to how to implement the GCM at national level; and facilitate collaborative efforts at regional and global levels, in line with the GCM vision and guiding principles.

- Serve as powerful voices together with the Network, to advocate and foster the implementation of the GCM and contribute to building a positive and evidence-based migration narrative drawing from the values and principles of the GCM, increasing its visibility as a crucial framework for migration governance.

How will the Network support Champion countries?

- Upon request, the Network will assist Champion countries, mainly by:
 - Supporting the development of GCM national implementation plans. Alternatively, the Network can advise on the mainstreaming of GCM objectives into existing national policies and strategies;
 - Offering targeted technical and capacity-building support on priority migration issues in accordance with national contexts and realities;
 - Supporting UN Country Teams, where applicable, as well as national or regional UN Networks on Migration, or other UN coordination structures that are being mobilized to support GCM implementation;
 - Facilitating the identification of existing practices and lessons learned from a wide range of stakeholders and across countries or regions through the Migration Network Hub;
 - Bolstering technical and substantive support in the voluntary national review and report on the implementation of the GCM, including in preparation for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and regional review processes with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

What is the link between the initiative and the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)?

- The Migration MPTF values greatly the national commitment to implement the GCM and it is by design that the Steering Committee ensured a significant overlap between the Champions and the countries that have been identified as priorities for the Fund. However, all countries are eligible to apply to the Fund and, when allocating resources, national commitment is one criterion amongst many others, notably the quality of the proposals and their thematic diversity.

For the upcoming Migration MPTF Steering Committee rotation exercise, priority will be given to Champion countries when appointing Member States for the three seats allocated to countries of origin, transit and destination.

When does the initiative end?

- The initiative is open-ended but will last at least until the first International Migration Review Forum in 2022.

What is the role of Champion countries in the GCM follow-up and review process?

- Champion countries can play a critical role in demonstrating support for the GCM, including by galvanizing support for a productive process of GCM regional reviews. Champion countries will be able to receive targeted support from the Network to organise national consultations with all relevant stakeholders including the whole-of-government and whole-of-society, to prepare voluntary national reviews for the GCM regional reviews, and to develop ambitious national GCM implementation plans, in order to contribute fully to the IMRF.

Where can I find the latest documents on the Champion countries initiative?

- All resources, including the [Champion countries Concept Note](#), the [Inaugural Meeting Summary](#), the [Network Coordinator Opening Remarks at Champions Meeting](#) and the [Kingdom of Morocco's Reflections at the Informal Consultation on the Champion countries](#), can be found on the Network [website](#).

Where can I address any further queries?

- For more information, please contact the secretariat of the UN Network: unmignet@iom.int.