



Note on the Implementation, Follow-up and Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Ensuring meaningful engagement of civil society and all relevant stakeholders for regional reviews

23 July 2020

This note by the UN Network on Migration, including the UN Regional Economic Commissions, seeks to outline the principles and objectives that will guide its collective efforts to ensure meaningful participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders¹ in the regional reviews and their preparatory processes called for in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). It builds on the framework proposed by the relevant GCM related resolutions² as well as the UN Network on Migration (Network) proposed framework for the preparation and organization of the regional reviews of GCM implementation³ and should be read in light of relevant General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions, including on the Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations⁴ and on civil society engagement with international and regional organizations⁵.

This note seeks to support our collective efforts to protect and expand civic space, in line with the GCM's guiding principles to ensure a whole of society approach. This note also seeks to provide greater cohesion across regions and complement the modalities and activities of regional Networks, including of the Regional Economic Commissions and their partners in organizing the regional reviews⁶ within their particular specificities and needs.

¹ Including migrants, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders at global, regional and national levels.

² The GCM (para 48) commits to "review the progress made at the local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and *with the participation of all relevant stakeholders*", https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/195 ; the GA resolution on the Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums (para 10) invites "to review the implementation of the Global Compact, within their respective regions, and to contribute to the work of the forums, *with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders*", https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/default/files/docs/a_res_73_326_0.pdf

³ <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/supporting-material-regional-reviews>

⁴ General Assembly, Resolution 1996/31, Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, 25 July 1996, available at <https://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/pdf/res96-31.pdf>.

⁵ Human Rights Council, A/HRC/RES/38/12, Civil society space: engagement with international and regional organizations, 6 July 2018, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session38/Pages/ResDecStat.aspx>.

⁶ This includes regional migration Networks or pre-existing migration coordination platforms that have been set up or strengthened with a view to enhancing coordination amongst the relevant actors and providing coherent support by the UN system to Member States in the implementation of the GCM at the country/regional level.



Background and key principles for meaningful stakeholder engagement in the GCM regional reviews

In resolution 73/195 (“Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”), the 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 GCM at the national, regional and global in cooperation and partnership with 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).
- Review the progress made at local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders (para 48).
- Encouraged all Member States to develop, as soon as practicable, ambitious national responses for the implementation of the Global Compact, and to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level, such as through the voluntary elaboration and use of a national implementation plan. Such reviews should draw on contributions from all relevant stakeholders, as well as parliaments and local authorities, and serve to effectively inform the participation of Member States in the International Migration Review Forum and other relevant (para 53).

A whole of society approach to the regional reviews would promote genuine engagement of stakeholders which strives to be non-tokenistic and to reach beyond a limited set of actors with greater access to UN processes. Genuine engagement actively aims at inclusivity, transparency and diversity in all stages including the preparatory process for reviews, the review meetings and follow up towards the IMRF in 2020 as follows:

Transparency: Generating an open call for engagement to all relevant stakeholders across sectors, countries and sub-regions; Providing an open and equal channel to receive inputs from all relevant stakeholders, including from any relevant regional, preparatory, sectoral and self-organized processes where stakeholders are engaging;

Inclusivity: Creating room for the widest possible access to all relevant stakeholders through different forms of engagement; In consideration of physical or virtual capacity limitations genuine engagement should go beyond mere attendance of the meetings themselves.

Diversity: Ensuring non-discriminatory access to all, with particular attention to under-represented voices, including migrants themselves; Giving due consideration to the genuine engagement of all relevant stakeholders every opportunity should be taken to support diversity of stakeholder participation, with particular emphasis on under-represented voices including and not limited to: women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to



ethnic, religious, national, linguistic and racial minorities, migrants, diaspora, grassroots level actors, LGBTI migrants, indigenous peoples and others not associated with or organized in non-governmental organizations⁷.

Meaningful participation: All relevant stakeholders should have equal and effective access to all preparatory, follow-up and review processes, including to provide inputs to preparatory documents and agendas, as experts, panelists and speakers in the regional review meetings, and to have access to all side-events, spaces and discussions. The mobilization of resources is encouraged to enable the meaningful participation of stakeholders, including to enable capacity building, preparatory activities and travel.

This note is divided into four sections which present key principles for engagement and checklists of considerations to ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement in all phases: 1) the Preparatory process; 2) the Inter-governmental meeting; and 3) Financial implications. The sections further address cross-cutting implications related to the impact of COVID 19 on engagement based on relevant guidance⁸. There is also an annex to this document that touches on general considerations which would apply broadly to any consultative process.

Support provided by the Network to ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement in the preparation and organization of regional reviews⁹

I. Preparatory process

- Stakeholders shall be meaningfully involved in supporting the preparation and organization of the reviews through appropriate methods of consultation accessible equally to all relevant actors, including by soliciting their inputs to background documents, the organization of work and agenda, the list of panelists and moderators. Furthermore, opportunities should be provided for stakeholders to organize activities and side events during the meetings organized to support reviews.
- The Network, through its regional Networks¹⁰ and the Regional Economic Commissions, will support meaningful engagement of stakeholders in the preparation of a voluntary stocktaking of the implementation of the GCM at national level ('voluntary GCM review') to be presented during the regional review, as appropriate. This may involve developing additional voluntary surveys targeted at stakeholders.
- The Network will provide an online space on the GCM Knowledge Platform dedicated to written submissions provided as part of the regional review process. Submissions from all relevant stakeholders, as well as relevant subregional, regional, and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations are encouraged and should be uploaded to these online spaces.
- Calls for inputs should facilitate wide participation of all relevant stakeholders by giving sufficient advance notice, disseminating a public call, including on the relevant regional review

⁷ Human Rights Council, A/HRC/RES/38/12, Civil society space: engagement with international and regional organizations, 6 July 2018, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session38/Pages/ResDecStat.aspx>.

⁸ <https://bangkok.ohchr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CivicSpaceandCovid.pdf>

⁹ Based on and complementing the UN Network on Migration's *Suggested checklist for preparing and organizing regional reviews*

¹⁰ <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/about>



websites, making the information available in multiple languages, as relevant, and providing a questionnaire or guiding questions, including child and youth-friendly versions, where possible.

- Preparatory, consultations with the participation of all relevant stakeholders should be held, including at sub-regional and sub-national levels where possible. Consultations may be divided into smaller discussions, for example on each of the four thematic roundtable clusters as identified in the resolution on the format and organizational aspects of the International Migration Review Forum¹¹ and virtual modalities could be explored to allow broader and more inclusive participation, particularly in the current Covid-19 context.
- To reduce cost and travel and in light of travel restrictions likely to persist in the COVID-19 pandemic period, the Network and Regional Economic Commissions, will seek to provide online discussion platforms for stakeholders in preparation for the regional reviews. These platforms could provide a space to hold meetings and give substantive feedback to agendas, background documents, and allow for Member States and stakeholders to set up video conferences.
- In light of potential COVID-19 restrictions which reduce meetings room capacity, hybrid meetings that are part virtual and part in person could be considered. This will be relevant also since travel restrictions may limit the participation of stakeholders more than other actors. However, wherever relevant, efforts should be put in place to ensure stakeholders physical participation also in case of limited seating, for example with access to alternative rooms enabling stronger interaction and enhancing unity of efforts between Governments, organizations and stakeholders. Moreover it will be important to find the right balance of virtual and physical participation as many stakeholders may not have the resources or capacities to participate virtually.
- Relevant stakeholders listed in the GCM should be able to participate and regional Networks may consider re-activating the independent registration process for stakeholder engagement used for the GCM process, so that it can also be used in the regional reviews.

II. The Inter-governmental meeting

- An open registration process is widely disseminated at least eight weeks in advance. Applications are considered by the Network at global and regional levels and UN Regional Economic Commissions (RECs).
- Participation should aim to ensure representation of all stakeholder categories in each region among civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders including migrants, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, the private sector, local authorities and communities, National Human Rights Institutes, parliamentarians, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia and the media and other relevant stakeholders at global, regional and national levels.
- Due regard must be paid to geographic balance, gender and racial (or national) balance and sectoral diversity, as well as reflection of the whole-of-government and whole-of-society, in the selection of keynote speakers, panelists and moderators. There should be no single-sex panels.
- The Network will support the meaningful participation of stakeholders in the review meetings including with regards to access to various sessions and representation in panels and roundtables in the official agenda.

¹¹ <https://www.un.org/pga/73/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2019/06/IMRF.pdf>



- If reviews are held virtually, the Network including at regional levels and Regional Economic Commissions, could host virtual stakeholder consultations in the weeks leading up to the regional review meeting. Such consultations may be structured around the four thematic clusters and/or other priorities identified in the region.
- The regional review meeting and the stakeholder consultation should be webcast.
- The Network including at regional levels and Regional Economic Commissions, will hold a stakeholder evaluation session after each regional review from which learning can be captured to inform future meetings, guidance and support. This could be undertaken virtually and could include surveys as well as open discussion modalities.

III) Financial implications

- To ensure diverse and inclusive stakeholder participation for in-person review meetings, it is recommended to allocate a portion of the budget from the dedicated funding window of the Migration MPTF towards travel and accommodations for stakeholders to the multi-stakeholder consultation and regional review “as outlined under articles 48 to 50 of General Assembly resolution 73/195”.¹²
- An open application process will be facilitated by each UN Regional Economic Commission, jointly with the Network. Allocation decision will be made by the Chair of the Migration MPTF Steering Committee based on recommendations from the Network and funding available under the dedicated funding window. The priority for selection should be to ensure representation by all relevant stakeholders.
- To ensure the meaningful and equal participation of all stakeholders, it is recommended that supporting documents and discussions are translated and interpreted in the UN official languages of the meeting for each region, where feasible.

¹² Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund Start-Up Fund For Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration, Operations Manual Revision of April 2020, p.25, <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/MIG00>



Annex I: Checklist for supporting stakeholder participation, engagement and inputs to the GCM regional reviews

The following is a non-comprehensive checklist of activities which would support transparent, inclusive and diverse engagement of stakeholders. These suggestions aim to complement rather than prescribe how each region and regional Network decides upon appropriate processes.

- Registration to attend meetings is open, transparent and inclusive within physical meeting space or virtual meeting capacity. Space or virtual platforms are identified which allow for the largest access to participation. Virtual platforms are accessible, user-friendly and have interpretation capacity.
- Interventions from the floor are solicited by registration on a first come basis, in an open call and to complement the modalities of Regional Economic Commissions.
- Speaking slots on panels and roundtables during regional reviews are decided by the regional task team with support from the Network Executive Committee and Secretariat
- Priority is to be given to applicants with regards to selection of speakers based on and intended to complement the modalities of Regional Economic Commissions:
 - Perspective, expertise and geographic and gender balance, etc.
 - Represents a constituency, organization or network rather than an individual actor;
- Priority is given to the selection of funded participants based on:
 - Representatives of under-represented voices (see key principles, “diversity”);
 - Under-represented sub-regions or nationalities;
 - Demonstrated commitment to the GCM, e.g. participation in national review meetings, preparatory processes and other consultations related to the review process where these have taken place
 - Those selected for speaking roles on the formal agenda of the meeting.