



Dear Resident Coordinators,

We are writing to update you on: (i) the UN Network on Migration, set up last year as a means to bring greater efficiency and coherence to the UN system's work on migration; and (ii) the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), adopted by the General Assembly in December 2018. Both developments are relevant to the ongoing United Nations reforms and will have important implications for work on migration at country-level.

### **UN Network on Migration**

In May 2018, the Secretary-General decided to establish the UN Network on Migration as a collaborative community of United Nations entities coming together to ensure effective and coordinated system-wide support to Member States in the GCM implementation, where needed. The Network is the successor to the Global Migration Group. In its creation, the Secretary-General gave IOM the role of the Network's Coordinator and secretariat. The Network secretariat, based in Geneva, is now in the process of being established.

Currently, the Network has 38 members, eight of whom constitute its Executive Committee (DESA, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC): the principal decision-making body which will help guide the priority areas of work for the Network. The Network does not seek to duplicate or replace the work of individual UN entities on migration but, by spirit and design, will work to maximize the support the UN system can bring, particularly where needs are identified at the country-level which are beyond the capacity of a single entity and would benefit from a multi-agency approach.

The Terms of Reference of the Network and its membership are attached. In developing these, we sought to prioritize inclusivity, including for non-UN stakeholders; agility, with a focus on results; a bottom-up approach with needs identified at the country-level, reinforcing ongoing reforms; efficiency, focusing on joint programming and not duplicating ongoing efforts that are already effective at delivering results; and a commitment to constantly reviewing – and refining – how we work.

As the Terms of Reference highlight, the key objective of the Network is to ensure UN system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM.

### **The Global Compact on Migration**

The GCM, as attached, was adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh on 10 December 2018, and subsequently endorsed by an overwhelming majority in the United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 2018 (A/RES/73/195). It is the product of nearly two years of consultations, stocktaking and negotiations amongst Member States, with inputs and support provided by the UN system and other stakeholders. Its adoption represents a recognition that migration is a global reality that is best managed through international cooperation.

Though non-legally binding, the GCM carries with it a political and moral weight. Acknowledging prerogatives of States to determine their own migration policies in full respect of human rights, the GCM

identifies ways by which to enhance regular migration while minimizing irregular movements. The GCM addresses the full migration cycle through 23 objectives and suggested courses of action; focuses on migration in all its dimensions; and encourages approaches to migration that maximize the benefits and minimize the challenges for communities in countries of origin, transit and destination as well as for migrants. GCM implementation will require concerted efforts at the global, regional, national and local levels, including a coherent UN system.

### **Capacity-Building Mechanism**

The GCM, in addition to welcoming the Secretary-General's decision to establish the UN Network on Migration, calls for the establishment of a capacity-building mechanism (paragraph 43) to promote bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation in the field of migration to implement the GCM. Embedded in the Network, the capacity building mechanism includes a knowledge platform which would serve as a publicly accessible repository of existing evidence, practices and initiatives on migration; a connection hub which would advise and assess country-level requests for support in implementing the GCM through expanded partnerships, including with non-UN stakeholders; and a start-up fund for the initial financing of projects. This fund – the Migration Compact Fund – will operate in a manner similar to other pooled UN funding mechanisms to support country-level and regional activities. More information on this mechanism will be made available in due course. In addition to supporting the implementation of GCM activities, the Fund will reinforce national ownership, UN system-wide coherence, UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and transparency.

### **Conclusion**

Recognizing the contribution of migration to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the GCM holds much promise for our common work on migration. This includes, but is not limited to, improving migration data, strengthening international cooperation, and preparing national implementation plans underpinned by a collective commitment to international law, including human rights and labour standards.

The GCM should be considered a key instrument for Resident Coordinators and UNCTs to draw upon in assisting Member States to develop policies for safe, orderly and regular migration. The UN Network on Migration is committed to support your efforts in the UNDS reform process, and to realize the Global Compact's objectives, including the development of UNDAFs. The Terms of Reference of the Network specify that such support to you be articulated through "UN system country- and regional-level coordination mechanisms ... via the relevant UN regional body or the Resident Coordinator" where applicable. As the Network develops its capacity-building mechanism, we will ensure to keep you informed of the types of information, practices and initiatives available to best support country-level implementation of the GCM. We will also count on your partnership to harness your best practices and lessons learned from the country-level in strengthening our collective capacities and bringing greater coherence to the UN system's efforts towards addressing all dimensions of migration.

As Coordinator of the Network, IOM's Director General, alongside all principals of the Network's Executive Committee, remains at your disposal to work with you in identifying how best the Network may be able to support priorities at the country-level. In so doing, the Director General will ensure that the appropriate expertise from the Network is brought to bear in support of your efforts.

The UN Network on Migration's website will be launched shortly, while the Network secretariat can be reached at [unmignet@iom.int](mailto:unmignet@iom.int).

Yours sincerely,

António Vitorino  
Coordinator,  
UN Network on Migration  
and  
Director General, IOM

Liu Zhenmin  
Under-Secretary-General, DESA

Guy Ryder  
Director-General, ILO

Michelle Bachelet  
UN High Commissioner for  
Human Rights

Achim Steiner  
Administrator, UNDP

Filippo Grandi  
UN High Commissioner for  
Refugees

Henrietta H. Fore  
Executive Director, UNICEF

Yury Fedotov  
Executive Director, UNODC

Geneva, 27 February 2019