Summary
UN Network on Migration - Executive Committee Principals Meeting
Thursday, 14 November, 13.00 – 14.00h
UNHQ, S-1525, New York

Participants:
António Vitorino, Director General, IOM, Network Coordinator

Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF

Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner, UNHCR

Guy Ryder, Director General, ILO,

Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP

Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affair), UNDESA

Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC

Craig Mokhiber, Director, New York Office, OHCHR

The Principals had before them the following agenda:

- An update by the Coordinator on Network activities since last meeting of the Principals and priorities moving forward

- Network voice:
  - Shared messages on support for the GCM
  - Shared messages on support for the Migration Start-Up Fund
  - Follow-up on priorities for collective Network positions with clear timelines

- Network support to the regional reviews of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

For the last two items, background notes including actions for the way forward were prepared (attached).

The Coordinator provided an update to the Principals, highlighting some key achievements:

- the workplan has been finalized and is being rolled out, with working groups including stakeholders under establishment;
- the Migration MPTF was established with some $7m pledged and its Steering Committee will first meet in December;
- the Network is being replicated at the country and regional levels; and
- the Network has issued a number of joint statements.

Looking ahead:

- the first annual meeting of the Network will take place on 11 December, followed by a Member States briefing on 12 December;
- regional reviews of the GCM will take place in 2020 with Network support; and,
- the first report of the Secretary-General on GCM implementation and the Network will be due at the end of next year.

However, despite a number of key accomplishments, the GCM remains a contentious issue at both national and global levels. The Coordinator highlighted that 2020 is a key year to demonstrate Network support for GCM implementation.

The Principals agreed that pilot countries for the Network workplan to support GCM implementation should be identified by the working level by December 2019 drawing from already identified criteria, including geographic balance and to not conflate with refugee issues. The Principals agreed that pilots would demonstrate the Network's work in practical terms, demystify what GCM implementation means, promote positive messaging on migration and the GCM, and also aid in mobilizing funds for the Migration MPTF.

The Principals also agreed on the need to exert their existence and to speak confidently on the GCM and migration in an appropriate manner, including by using the shared key messages at select events. The use of storytelling was suggested as providing a humane description of the migration experience, while also not conflating the GCM with the Global Compact on Refugees. In addition, continuous investment in evidence building, such as regional reports, was welcomed.

The Principals noted their concern at the recent pushback against the GCM promoted by some Member States both publicly and in intergovernmental fora, and, in this context, underscored the importance of strong advocacy and visible support for the GCM from the Network and its individual members.

Relatedly, the Principals agreed that the Network needs to issue joint statements/position papers on the thematic areas identified in the workplan, in addition to being responsive to timely and critical migration issues and situations on the ground. Statements outside of the thematic areas in the workplan can be initiated by any of the Network's members.

The Principals highlighted the need to maintain the momentum of the GCM adoption, with a focus on next year's regional reviews of the GCM and first Secretary-General's report. The regional reviews will be different in each region dependent on the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), which will play a crucial role, and the replication of the Network at different levels with different solutions, and also the regional consultative processes (RCPs). There will not be one standard type of regional review, rather they will be tailored to each region. Relatedly, on the replication of the Network at country and regional levels, while noting they are not uniform, it would be necessary to ensure a degree of minimum requirements in line with the global ToR of the Network. The Principals agreed that the Coordinator will reach out to the RECs for their engagement on regional reviews.

At the closing, the Principals agreed to release their joint press statement on the occasion of their meeting: http://migrationnetwork.un.org/statement/joint-statement-united-nations-network-migration-second-meeting-executive-committees.