



**Summary of the Informal Consultation on the role of ‘Champion Countries’  
in the implementation of the GCM**

*3 September 2020*

On 3 September 2020, the Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration (Network), IOM Director General António Vitorino, held an informal consultation on the role of champion countries (champions) in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The consultation was attended by 83 participants from 18 Member States, UN Network entities at both Headquarters and country levels, and civil society co-leads of the Network’s working groups.

In his opening remarks, the Coordinator:

- Emphasised the importance of the champion countries initiative in pursuit of GCM implementation, follow-up and review, and provided a few options of how Champions could engage in this initiative;
- Acknowledged their role as “powerful voices” to foster the implementation of the GCM and to represent a migration narrative drawing from the values and principles of the GCM;
- Recognized that champion countries will help generate momentum and dispel anxieties and myths around the GCM, noting that in conception this was not an exclusive group but hopefully one which would continue to expand;
- Offered support to Member States in the successful implementation of the GCM through the guidance materials and tools that the Network is developing, and encouraged champions to pilot these resources;
- Invited Member States to actively engage in the consultation and exchange views on how best this initiative can move forward, with Member States taking ownership of the process while being supported by the Network; and
- Encouraged Member States to build on the positive measures that they have implemented in response to COVID-19.

The Opening remarks delivered by the Network Coordinator are available on the Network Website.

Delegates representing the following countries took the floor: Bangladesh, Morocco, Ecuador, Philippines, Portugal, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Canada, Mexico and Senegal. These interventions were followed by responses from co-leads of the Network’s Core Working Groups that are working primarily on GCM implementation at the country level, as well as EC members and co-leads of the Network’s Thematic Working Groups.

Currently, 13 countries (Bangladesh, Canada, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Thailand and Senegal) have confirmed their willingness to become champions. They expressed, during the meeting, support for the GCM, reiterating that it represents a comprehensive framework for well-managed migration governance and remain committed to its guiding principles.

As such, the champion countries initiative was welcomed as a much needed support to GCM implementation, including through international cooperation. It was recognized as an opportunity to demonstrate the GCM’s utility in governing migration more effectively, including in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the course of the discussion, Member States highlighted the nature of their support for GCM implementation, including in some instances through strengthening internal coordination structures, developing national implementation plans and/or mainstreaming measures drawn from the GCM in their national development plans.

The consultation provided an opportunity for Member States to highlight their priorities in relation to GCM implementation.

Options raised in the discussion for champions to focus on included:

- Promoting spaces for Member States to exchange views at national and global levels, with the purpose of capacity building to increase knowledge and access to information through various options (data, newsletter, policy briefs, etc.). A letter from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to Geneva outlining some options in this regard is attached here;
- Utilising the practical technical tools and expertise of the Network's working groups;
- Assisting Member States in the development of GCM national implementation plans, where requested, including addressing coordination, flexibility and adaptability, and monitoring and follow-up (in this regard, Portugal, working with the Network, offered to share its experiences in the development of its national implementation plan);
- The necessity to promote the GCM guiding principles;
- Enhancing the participation of Member States and stakeholders in the regional reviews through state-led advocacy including in regional and international fora; and
- Increasing the visibility of the GCM as a crucial framework for well-managed migration governance.

In addition, suggestions as to areas of possible focus included on issues related to human rights at borders, reducing situations of vulnerability for migrants, and promoting and supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development. The need to advocate for reaching the GCM's objectives, and address issues regarding migration narratives, especially in the new context of COVID-19 were also highlighted.

This first consultation with champion countries also provided an opportunity to clarify multiple questions regarding the initiative. A general matter that was raised related to working methods, including the timeline of this initiative, if and how regular meetings would take place, the nature of engagement with Government counterparts in the field, and how best to make national migration governance benefit from this initiative.

As a next step, the Network will share various materials and tools under development or ready to be tested, which focus on: Support for GCM implementation, Pathways for regular migration, Return and reintegration, Access to services and Global guidelines on Bilateral Labor Migration Agreements. A revised concept note on the champions initiative, reflecting the discussions in this first informal consultations, is also attached.