Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the UNECE region
12 and 13 November 2020

Roundtable 3 – Friday, 13 November, 10:10 – 11:50

GCM objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation	**GCM objective 8:** Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants	**GCM objective 9:** Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
GCM objective 10: Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration	**GCM objective 11:** Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner	**GCM objective 13:** Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives	**GCM objective 21:** Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

Background note

Roundtable 3 will focus specifically on measures implemented by states and other stakeholders to protect migrants through "right-based border-governance measures", including policy measures that allow for direct screening and legal and humanitarian assistance, protecting persons at risk, and enabling states to track migration trends comprehensively. Such information would be helpful contributions to the GCM's Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub.

With regard to GCM objective 4, this roundtable will seek to discuss means by which states and stakeholders fulfil the right of migrants to a legal identity. This includes the provision of proof of nationality and relevant documentation and accurately ascertaining their legal status upon entry, during their stay and on return. These processes are governed by ensuring that overarching migration procedures give efficient service provision and foster improved public safety to ensure that migrants are issued adequate documentation and civil registry documents as a means to empower migrants to effectively exercise their human rights. Specific state-led interventions that have been implemented include identity management, document security and Advanced Passenger Information (API) systems which support inter-agency cooperation. This discussion also closely aligns with GCM objective 11, which proposes actions for states to implement border management policies that are human rights based.

Each year, many migrants and refugees lose their lives or go missing, whether during their journey, or upon arrival. Maritime routes are particularly dangerous. In 2020 alone, IOM estimates that over 700 migrants went missing in in the Mediterranean. This roundtable will consider regional

efforts to save lives and prevent migrant deaths and injuries through search and rescue operations, and collection and exchange of relevant information as outlined in GCM objective 8. The discussion will further address means by which states and stakeholders can assist migrants who are missing or find themselves in vulnerable situations with protection needs that must be addressed, including exposure to violence, exploitation or abuse.

It is recognized within the GCM guiding principles that a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response is required to mitigate these vulnerabilities and implement support and protection services. This relates closely to GCM objective 9, which considers regional and transnational responses to the smuggling of migrants. GCM objective 10 relates to the eradication of Trafficking in Persons (TiP), and the roundtable will allow participants to share information on initiatives (especially involving regional cooperation) to raise awareness of these crimes, identify and support victims, and convict perpetrators.

Governments reaffirmed the commitment to ensure that the use of detention is lawful, necessary, proportionate and "to prioritize non-custodial alternatives to detention that are in line with international law, and to take a human rights-based approach to any detention of migrants, using detention as a measure of last resort only" in Objective 13. This roundtable will allow for an exchange of practices as well as identify opportunities and challenges towards the development of alternatives to immigration detention in the region, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, this roundtable will speak to GCM Objective 21 regarding cooperation to facilitate safe and dignified return, ensuring that nationals are duly received and readmitted, and ensuring sustainable reintegration. Regional cooperation and assistance for safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration is, therefore, critical to consider during this roundtable.

Lastly, this roundtable will discuss the global impact of COVID-19. The pandemic is having an unprecedented and devastating impact on migration, human mobility, and displacement, both in terms of regimes of border and migration governance, and the situation of all people on the move. This has been exacerbated as many state borders are closed. Measures to be discussed may include border-screening centres, awareness raising initiatives and whole-of-government approaches to integrate border management, along with other stages of the migration continuum, with health services.

Guiding questions

All guiding questions should be assessed through the prism of the GCM's guiding principles, particularly through the whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, whilst also being gender-responsive and child-sensitive.

1. What measures have states used to ensure that would-be migrants have adequate legal documentation before beginning their journey? (GCM objective 4)

2. What inter-state and inter-ministerial arrangements exist to track and record migration flows? (GCM objective 11)

3. How can states best apply the GCM's whole-of-government and whole-of-society guiding principles with respect to supporting vulnerable migrants at border crossing points? What gender and child sensitive approaches to border procedures may be applied? (GCM objectives 8 and 11)

4. Have states intensified joint efforts to prevent and counter smuggling of migrants by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and penalize the smuggling of migrants in order to end the impunity of smuggling networks. (GCM objective 9)

5. What are examples of regional cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize trafficking in persons, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, and ending impunity of trafficking networks? What means are used to identify and prosecute perpetrators? (GCM objective10) Does the current level of bilateral and regional cooperation suffice to ensure   a human-rights based approach to border management systems? (GCM objectives 4, 8 and 11)

6. What means can be used as alternatives to detention? (GCM objective 13)

Background materials

Video: The Global Compact for Migration in a Nutshell

UN Secretary-General Policy Brief: COVID-19 and People on the Move

UN Network on Migration Briefing: Thematic Working Group 2 on Alternatives to Detention

UN Network on Migration Policy Brief: The Global Compact for Migration (GCM): Well Governed Migration as an Essential Element of Effective COVID-19 Response

UN Network on Migration Statement: COVID-19 Does Not Discriminate; Nor Should Our Response

UNODC Policy Brief: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trafficking in Persons

Communications

During the roundtable, the UN Network on Migration secretariat will live tweet from its Twitter account (@UNMigNetwork).

If there is content you would like to share publicly via the Network's channel, you can send it to the team via direct messages during the event.

To tweet during the event, the following hashtags can be used: #GlobalCompactforMigration and #GCM

All materials related to this meeting are available here.