

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

12 and 13 November 2020

Roundtable 2 – Thursday, 12 November 2020, 13.30 – 15:10

GCM objective 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

GCM objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

GCM objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

GCM objective 12: Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral

GCM objective 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

Background note

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) takes a comprehensive, 360-degree approach to international migration. In doing so, it recognizes that migration policy cuts across issues that states have committed to invest in – under the GCM and the 2030 Agenda - including climate change and climate resilience, education, gender, inclusive economic growth, and urban and rural development. To achieve this, in part, the GCM also calls for employment creation, fair recruitment and decent work, including through investments in human capital development by promoting entrepreneurship, education, vocational training and skills development and recognition programmes and partnerships.

For all objectives highlighted in this roundtable, bilateral and multilateral cooperation remains essential for upholding human and labour rights of migrants along with decent work which will, in turn, enable migrants and their families to contribute to climate resilience and sustainable development in both the origin and destination communities. Cooperation within and between regions can help enhance and expand regular pathways for admissions, visas and the granting of residency. This includes provisions for work; education; upholding the right to family life; responding to the needs of vulnerable migrants; as well as the provision of effective work visa policies, social protection and skills portability that meet states' labour market needs. Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements (BLMAs) are specific instruments aimed at this, which are also designed to both protect migrant workers and help them contribute to and benefit from socioeconomic development and climate resilience in a fair and equitable manner. How such

policies and initiatives can contribute to the GCM's Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub for sharing best practices amongst states will remain a critical question.

The GCM further provides commitments to increase legal certainty and predictability of migration procedures, based on effective human rights-based mechanisms for screenings, individual assessment and referrals in accordance with international law. These include communicating the requirements for entry, admission, stay, work, study or other activities, and introducing technology to simplify application procedures, in order to avoid unnecessary delays and expenses for States and migrants.

In addition to examining the intersectionality of these objectives, this roundtable will also address the impacts of the ongoing pandemic on GCM implementation. This roundtable will examine how COVID-19 has impacted admission and stay procedures, affecting the ability of migrants to move safely and regularly, including for labour mobility and decent work, access to education and family reunification. This roundtable will also examine the capacities of the migrants and their families to address the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. The gender-based implications and impacts on children and youth will be considered across the GCM objectives.

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. How have states interlinked the Agenda 2030 and the GCM with a focus on education, inclusive economic growth, climate resilience, infrastructure, urban and rural development, employment creation and decent work? (GCM objective 2)
2. Have regular pathways for admission, including Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements (BLMAs) been effective in ensuring regular admissions and effective work visa policies, social protection and skills portability and matching to better respond to business and labour market needs? Have enabling conditions (e.g., work visas, fair recruitment, social protection, skills portability, etc.) assisted migrants and their families to contribute and benefit from climate resilience building in the source or destination areas? What cross-regional strategies on migration have been applied, and what challenges did states encounter? What other efforts to enhance access to regular migration pathways have been implemented (e.g. for family reunification)? (GCM objectives 5, 8 and 18)
3. In facilitating a whole-of-society approach, how have stakeholders and in particular trade unions, employer's organizations, the private sector and migrant associations been engaged? How have the specific situations and issues of women migrant workers been included in development of policy strategies? (GCM objectives 5, 8 and 18)

4. What concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions have been taken to advance objective 12? What are the challenges and shortcomings? (GCM objective 12)
5. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the implementation of GCM objectives 2, 5, 8, 12 and 18? Does it provide an effective framework for regional cooperation and in developing inclusive COVID-19 measures that protect human rights and enhance the positive development effects of human mobility?

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 4 on BLMAs

UN Network on Migration [Statement](#): COVID-19 Does Not Discriminate; Nor Should Our Response

UN Network on Migration [Policy Brief](#): Enhancing Access to Services for Migrants in the Context of COVID-19 Preparedness, Prevention, and Response and Beyond

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

[ILO Policy Brief](#): Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic

[IOM Policy Brief](#): Migration-related Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 on Developing Countries

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](#).