



Check against delivery

Briefing to Member States and stakeholders

Launching of the Roadmap towards the International Migration Review Forum

19 October, 15:00 CET (virtual)

Excellencies, distinguished guests, colleagues,

Mr. President of the General Assembly, your presence here stresses the importance of the International Migration Review Forum as the primary space for the United Nations to discuss cooperation on migration and the progress made in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

You can rest assured of the Network's commitment to support you, the Member States and all stakeholders in the organization of the Forum.

I would like to take the opportunity of today's meeting to share some observations on what is at stake for migrants and communities in this Forum, and I will come back to this at the end of my remarks.

Before doing so, however, I will brief on the Network's roadmap towards the first International Migration Review Forum, which has been shared with permanent missions in both Geneva and New York ahead of this meeting.

As outlined in the Resolution on the Format and Organizational Aspects of the International Migration Review Forum, the Forum will provide an opportunity for Member States and other relevant stakeholders to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the GCM; present a space for a policy debate focusing on challenges in the implementation of the GCM; and result in a Progress Declaration.

The review of the Global Compact is a Member State-led process. As you start preparing for the discussions in New York, it will be important for States to review their progress in the implementation of



the Global Compact in consultation with a wide range of national and local stakeholders. This goes to the core of the Compact's whole-of-society guiding principle.

While over 90 governments submitted reports ahead of the regional reviews, I would encourage you, where relevant, to update these reports ahead of the Forum, in consultation with your partners. For governments that did not prepare a written report, the Network is proposing an updated review template. This template is attached to the roadmap.

Member States can send their voluntary reports, as well as their national implementation plans, to the secretariat of the Network after which they will be posted on the Network's website. There is no deadline for the submission of your reports but please do keep in mind that the reports will feed into the Progress Declaration, consultations for which are set to start at least two months prior to the Forum itself. I would encourage you to submit your reports by February next year.

Excellencies,

Allow me to lay out the specific support from the Network for the IMRF preparations as referenced in the roadmap.

The Secretary-General's report, expected to be released in February 2022, will provide guidance for the Forum's deliberations. The report will provide an overview of progress made in the Compact's implementation, the activities of the UN system in this regard as well as the functioning of the institutional arrangements and will further provide guidance for consideration at the Migration Review Forum.

The report will draw on the regional review process of the GCM. Further, in the coming weeks, the Network will consult Member States specifically on the preparation of the Secretary-General's report. A separate consultation with stakeholders will be organized before the end of the year.

In addition, the Network will draft background notes for each of the Forum's round tables, drawing from inclusive and open consultations with both Member States and stakeholders ahead of their release next March.

In my capacity as Coordinator of the Network, I have been requested to facilitate a policy debate during the Review Forum. This debate will focus on challenges in the implementation of the Global Compact, including links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the capacity-building mechanism,



and emerging issues related to migration. It will also be an opportunity to discuss the functioning of the institutional arrangements in supporting the implementation of the GCM.

The Network will prepare a separate background note to inform and guide the policy debate.

Excellencies,

We will soon go live with a dedicated website for the Migration Review Forum, including all relevant background notes and papers, relevant dates, and information on the accreditation of stakeholders and the registration process.

Meaningful participation of stakeholders during the Forum is critical. While virtual platforms will allow for broad participation, many stakeholders will require financial support to participate in person, where possible.

The same is true for delegations from developing and least developed countries. I call on you to contribute to the dedicated funding window of the Migration Multi-Partners Trust Fund that will facilitate participation of developing and least developed states, as well as stakeholders, in the first International Migration Review Forum.

The Migration Network Hub – which combines the global knowledge platform and the connection hub – will play a central role in the Network’s outreach efforts.

The Hub offers a virtual meeting space for Member States and stakeholders to discuss priorities and gaps in the implementation of the Compact. It will soon host a repository of practices, which will showcase selected practices serving as an invaluable resource for actors involved in GCM implementation at all levels. We expect the repository to be fully functional by February next year, although you will be able to submit practices as soon as this November. Those practices will be peer-reviewed by experts before being added to the Hub’s repository.

The Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund is currently supporting nine joint programmes covering all thematic areas and all regions. With 32 other initiatives in the pipeline, it is poised to do much more. The Fund’s Steering Committee – representing states of origin, transit and destination of migrants, stakeholders, donors, and the UN system – has set a funding target of USD 70 million by the first Forum.

I encourage all to consider joining the 12 Member States that have made financial contributions to date.



Distinguished delegates,

In preparing inter-governmental meetings, there is always the danger that a focus on mechanics can take over; that we will worry more about who is speaking, and when, over the reasons as to why we are gathering. With that in mind, permit me four personal observations.

First, it is important to see the Forum as part of a process, and not an end in itself. How can we use the next six months to build momentum around our commitment to strengthening international cooperation in the field of migration? How can we use this time effectively to ensure that all 23 objectives receive due attention; and that all actors are given a voice?

Second, we have a unique opportunity: the Forum will not get a second chance to make a first impression. We should seek to be ambitious, including in making concrete commitments or pledges to further implementation of the GCM.

Third, the Forum requires that priorities are set for the coming period. Given the spread of issues covered by the Compact this is no easy feat. But I would urge you, as you approach the Forum, to recognize that there is opportunity both to cover the Compact in full – through the roundtables – and also to identify those areas requiring the most pressing attention at this point in time. It would be a wasted opportunity if we did not come away from the Forum with a clear sense of direction.

And, finally, we must always recall that at the heart of what we are discussing are the challenges, hopes, fears and successes faced by people the world over. The Forum must be a place in which to celebrate successes; but it will be judged more by our willingness to confront our shortcomings to improve the situation of migrants, their families and their communities.

Thank you.