

Check against delivery

United Nations Network on Migration
2nd Quarterly Meeting (Virtual) with Stakeholders and Partners

Wednesday, 26 May 2021

15.00 – 17.00 (GVA time)

Coordinator Statement

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to join you today at this second quarterly consultation of the Network with stakeholders, and to seek ways in which to increase our mutual engagement as we support the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

As part of our consultation today, we will discuss the new Network workplan, looking at some key priority areas, and will also reflect upon the regional reviews as we head towards the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2022.

I am pleased to announce that a new Network workplan outlining its priorities has been endorsed by the Executive Committee Principals. You have the workplan before you. It focuses Network objectives and activities towards supporting the GCM as we head towards the IMRF in 2022. The workplan contains a number of pre-existing areas of focus and also a number of new ones, such as responses to COVID-19, the SDGs and inequalities, remittances, smuggling, climate and migration, and anti-discrimination.

I thank all those who provided feedback to earlier drafts of this workplan and would like to stress that this is a living document which we must adjust as circumstances evolve. Meetings such as this provide one crucial forum in which to ensure we are able to make those recalibrations which may prove necessary.

Now as we focus on implementation, I'm pleased that the new workplan offers entry points for stakeholders to engage actively in supporting implementation of the GCM. After my opening comments, you will be hearing from some of those colleagues in the Network leading on the new workstreams and in which they will discuss with you how best to contribute to, and shape, these new initiatives.

As mentioned, this new workplan was developed as we focus on the IMRF – likely to be held in May 2022 –as the first mandated meeting to evaluate the collective progress on implementation of the objectives of the GCM.

The IMRF presents a unique opportunity to review the success to date of the GCM; and to highlight what challenges continue to exist or have emerged in the way of its implementation. Further, while the structure of the meeting itself has been clearly articulated by the General Assembly, this will be the first such review: as such, we have a vital opportunity to shape its tone, its focus, and its level of ambition.

We welcome, in particular, guidance on how we can rectify any weaknesses in engagement of stakeholders. Some of these may build upon reflections in the regional reviews. What work still needs to be done in securing the strongest possible access at intergovernmental meetings? How can under-represented sectors be better engaged? In addressing these issues, we can help ensure more robust participation at the IMRF, and also more robust support towards GCM implementation through partnerships.

Let me take this opportunity to also inform you that there are now 51 country-level Networks, with 14 operating in Champion countries, plus 6 regional Networks or other strengthened existing migration platforms. All of these represent modalities by which to strengthen UN-stakeholders partnership on the GCM, helping to bring together both a whole-of-UN system and whole-of society approach.

Through these structures, through the MPTF, and by more active use of the Migration Network Hub, as examples, it is vital that we use this coming period to harvest examples of impact of both the GCM and your engagement as stakeholders at national levels. Our narrative must be compelling of a framework for migration governance that is making tangible impact on the ground and, where it is deficient, that these challenges are duly acknowledged.

Equally, we must not lose sight of the imperative to view this compact as having a truly global outlook. Further engagement of OECD countries must be a priority.

Dear colleagues,

To ensure that Member States and stakeholders can prepare in a timely manner, the Network is developing a roadmap-towards the IMRF, including, of course, a timeline for the issuance of the second mandated Secretary-General's report in which he is expected to provide guide deliberations.

You can expect this detailed roadmap as soon as I will have had the opportunity to discuss the Network's support to Member States in more detail with the next President of the General Assembly.

To this end, the next SG's Report will provide both policy and organizational guidance to the IMRF. The report should be released in February 2022, anticipating that the IMRF will be held in May 2022, and offers an opportunity for the Secretary-General to outline key successes and challenges, and make recommendations on where we need to collectively focus our attention and resources in the years to come. Stakeholders of course will be consulted in an open discussion during the drafting of the report.

We have already much to reflect on, as four out of five GCM regional reviews have been held, with Africa's set to take place in July 2021.

Stakeholders have played a prominent role in the regional review process, but how can this be built on? What plans do you have for taking those discussions, breaking them down, bringing on board new partners to hear their views, and ensuring that our collective discourse on the GCM does not stutter between now and the IMRF?

Today we will focus on experiences and lessons learned across regions during the regional reviews processes, in addition to the workplan. Together, we must endeavour to shape a way forward which continuously strengthens meaningful participation of stakeholders in the GCM's implementation and review.

Finally, let me say a few brief words on the Migration MPTF. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for 15 June. It will be the last one under the current configuration as half the members will rotate at the end of that month (the other half will rotate at the end of June 2022).

Programme implementation has started. Seven joint programmes are currently underway. True to the GCM 360-degree approach, these programmes cover all five thematic areas and all continents. While very diverse in nature, each of these seven programmes is strongly aligned with the GCM guiding principles including the whole-of-society approach.

32 additional joint programme ideas have been positively assessed by the Steering Committee and constitute the Migration MPTF pipeline. Ten amongst these (two per thematic area) have been identified as priorities and are ready for implementation.

Taking into account the difficult context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fund was off to an encouraging start with approximately USD17.5m mobilized by the end of 2020. The Steering Committee has set the 2021 target at USD30m. It is both modest in view of the Member States

and UNCTs' demand for support and ambitious given the current context. Only 10% has been secured so far and we must collectively redouble our resource mobilization efforts.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the Network welcomes these meetings with our stakeholders partners, as an opportunity to directly raise priorities, concerns, challenges and recommendations on how to best move forward in the realization of the GCM's objectives and specifically its whole-of-society approach and guiding principles.

I look forward to our discussion today.