

United Nations Network on Migration

Champions (Virtual) Meeting

Wednesday, 26 May 2021

13.30 – 14.30 (GVA time)

Coordinator Statement

Dear Excellencies and colleagues,

It is my pleasure to be with you today, to reflect on where we are together and what is ahead of us, as we continue our partnership of support the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, looking ahead to the first global review, likely one year from now.

As part of our meeting today, I am also pleased to have Network colleagues from the Alternatives to Detention working group to consult with you on their forthcoming second global peer learning exchange at the end of June.

Excellences,

It is with pleasure that we count today 22 Champion countries, only a year following its launch, forming a progressively powerful voice from all regions, representing the Compact's global nature and comprising all aspects of migration.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of your leadership and engagement in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Compact.

Yet we need to do more. It would be critical to both extend the membership of this initiative to as many Member States as feasible – including OECD countries – and provide opportunities for Champions to more publicly voice their support of the GCM.

For our part, I am pleased to announce that a new Network workplan 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.

This is on top of the many tools and guidelines developed and being developed by the Network and for which we are seeking both feedback and road testing, including from Champions. One of these tools, on alternatives to immigration, detention will be discussed as part of our meeting today.

The workplan is being circulated widely, including with Member States and stakeholders in anticipation of our next Network briefing to States on 24 June and a stakeholder consultation later today.

I am also pleased to 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 system collaboration while incorporating a whole-of society approach to support Member States in their implementation of the GCM.

Excellencies,

During the last meeting with Champions in February, you were presented with the Network material [*Implementing the GCM: Guidance for governments and all relevant stakeholders*](#), calling upon your support through comments and suggestions with the aim at making it meet both your expectations and needs.

To that end, the Migration Network Hub was used as an online platform, with a dedicated space for internal conversations amongst Champions. It was also proposed as a means of collecting your inputs to the Network's Guidance.

We had hoped for a higher level of interaction and we continue to seek your views on how better to use this channel for your engagement. Yet the feedback we did receive from you was insightful. A broader audience of Member States and stakeholders are also being consulted with the purpose of finalizing this Guidance and will be shared with you in due time.

It is vital that we build on these positive practices, including by increasing our use of the Hub, and contributing more proactively to the tools and materials that are being developed by all Network's Working Groups.

Excellencies,

The first global review of the GCM – the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) – will soon be upon us.

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.

I call on the Champion countries for their continued leadership and engagement to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive partnership towards a successful IMRF, bearing in mind, also, the centrality of the GCM's guiding principles. The Network is currently undertaking discussions on how best to be fit for purpose to support the IMRF. I suggest that in our future

meetings later this year, we have a more specific discussion on the role of the Champions and the IMRF including on how best to ensure momentum towards this first global review.

To this end, the next Secretary-General'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. Consultations for the drafting of this SG report are currently underway and we will seek also the views of the Champions.

But before we reach this milestone event, other major activities are in the pipeline, each of them representing a means by which Champion countries can play a prominent role through the promotion of the GCM. For example, the forthcoming and last regional review, in Africa, set for July; the July 2021 HLPF, September 2021 UNGA, and November 2021 UNFCCC COP26. Many of these are highlighted in the Network's workplan as targets of opportunity to raise the visibility of the GCM. With all of these, the Network stands ready to support you all.

Excellencies,

Finally, let me say a few brief words on the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

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.

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

I also want to acknowledge the work and support of those Champions who have been members of the Steering Committee during these first two years of the Fund - Ecuador, Morocco and Thailand - and welcome Ghana, Iraq and Mexico in joining.

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 but, at the same time, it is ambitious given the current economic context. Only 10% has been secured so far and we must collectively redouble our resource mobilization efforts. I would welcome your support in this regard, and thank those who have been active as both donors and Steering Committee members of the Fund.

To conclude, I am looking forward to hearing from you on how you might specifically see your role going forward during this critical time, as well as any expectations you might



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have. It is vital, if we are to succeed in the coming months, that you keep high your ownership of this Champions initiative, with our – always - dedicated support.

Thank you so much and I would like to now open the floor to all of you.