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United Nations
Network on Migration
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Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region

Multi-stakeholder Consultation

Draft Concept Note 23 February 2021

The purpose of this concept note is to propose the modalities for the multi-stakeholder consultation in preparation of the regional review on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in the Arab region. The multi-stakeholder meeting will take place on 23 February 2021, from 10:00 – 15:00 Cairo time including one hour break.

I. Background

The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#) is a non-binding document based on international law that builds on a set of global frameworks including the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Member States pledged to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”¹. The formal endorsement of the GCM by the United Nations General Assembly on the 19 December 2018² represented a paradigm shift in the approach to migration governance.³ Putting people at the heart of migration governance, the GCM is anchored in human rights and calls for the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status. Its 10 guiding principles promote a gender-responsive and child-sensitive approach to migration governance and prioritize the well-being of migrants and the members of communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. They also reaffirm national sovereignty and recognize the respect for the rule of law and due process. Rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the GCM reaffirms the potential of migration for achieving sustainable development and simultaneously seeks to limit possible negative impacts. The GCM recognizes that good migration governance can only be achieved through adopting whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and building strong partnerships at the national,

¹ A/RES/70/1.

² A/RES/73/195.

³ A total of 152 Member States voted in favour for endorsing the GCM including 19 Arab countries, of which five voted against and 12 abstained from a vote.

regional and global levels. The GCM, with its 23 objectives and their associated actionable commitments and suggested actions, provides a 360-degree approach to migration governance and offers a road map to help achieve safe, orderly and regular migration.

To ensure its effective implementation, Member States highlighted the importance that the GCM include a call for voluntary follow-up and review. At the global level, the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which will be held every four years beginning in 2022, will serve as the primary intergovernmental platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all the objectives of the GCM. Following system-wide consultations, and the proposal by the Deputy Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, the UN Secretary-General established a UN Network on Migration, to ensure effective, coordinated system-wide support to the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM in response to the needs of Member States. In this regard, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is designated as the Coordinator and Secretariat of the Network, and requested to assist in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact. It is also noted that the Network will fully draw from the technical expertise and experience of relevant entities within the United Nations system.

Recognizing that most international migration takes place within regions, Member States invited relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, including the United Nations regional economic commissions to review the implementation of the GCM at the regional level to review the progress on its implementation beginning in 2020, and every four years thereafter.⁴ The outcome of regional reviews will inform the IMRF of major regional trends, challenges, successful practices, and emerging issues. General Assembly resolution 73/326 on the modalities and organizational aspects of the IMRF emphasized the importance of engaging with all relevant stakeholders to ensure a whole of government and whole of society approach. General Assembly resolution 73/326 on the modalities and organizational aspects of the IMRF emphasizes the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders to ensure a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and the progress review fora will review all aspects of the GCM, according to its vision and its cross cutting and interdependent guiding principles.

II. Multi-stakeholder engagement in the Regional Review in the Arab Region

1. Multi-stakeholder engagement in the regional review process

In the Arab region, IOM, ESCWA and the League of Arab States, in collaboration with the members of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab region, and with the support of the Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, are coordinating the GCM regional review process. The regional review process is composed of several components to ensure the widest and most effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

To ensure a whole-of-society approach to the regional reviews, ESCWA, IOM, and the United Nations Network on Migration organized two multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions in October and November of 2020, bringing together representatives of civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector and employers' organizations, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent

⁴ [A/RES/73/195](#), para. 50; [A/RES/73/326](#), para. 10.

Movement, and academia among others. The dialogues sessions served to raise awareness on the GCM and the regional review process and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to propose means to ensure their optimal engagement in the review process. Additional informal dialogue sessions were also organized with specific stakeholder groups as part of the review process.

The review process will culminate in the organization of the regional review conference on 24-25 February 2021, which will convene all relevant stakeholders.

To ensure an inclusive regional review, all the relevant stakeholders have been invited to submit voluntary GCM review in writing on experiences on the implementation of the GCM by 16 February 2021 to the UN Network on Migration. These submissions will be posted on the regional landing page of the Network's website (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/arab-states>).

2. Multi-stakeholder Consultation

To ensure meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement in the Regional Review conference, IOM, ESCWA and the United Nations Network on Migration in collaboration with the members of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab region will organize an informal multi-stakeholder consultation one day prior to the regional review conference. The consultation will bring stakeholders together to:

- a) assess the progress made in the implementation of the GCM in the Arab region, in line with the guiding principles laid down in resolution 73/195;
- b) discuss challenges and opportunities for meaningful stakeholder engagement in the Arab region;
- c) formulate key messages and recommendations to inform the Regional Review Conference as well as the 2022 International Migration Review Forum.

The multi-stakeholder consultation will consist of opening and scene setting sessions, followed by a multi-stakeholder panel and an open dialogue. The outcome of the informal consultation will be presented during the Regional Review conference. In addition to the presentation of the outcome of the informal consultation, each of the roundtables during the Regional Review Conference will include panelists representing the different stakeholders sectors as cited in the GCM.

III. Outcome of the multi-stakeholder meeting

A Rapporteur will synthesize the key messages and recommendations resulting from the informal multi-stakeholder consultation. They will also be responsible for presenting this outcome during the conference during the relevant session. The multi-stakeholder consultation will further result in a summary report that will be attached to the outcome document of the regional review conference. The summary report will be published on the regional landing page of the Network's website (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/arab-states>). The report will also serve as an additional input to the 2022 International Migration Review Forum.

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Draft Agenda

23 February 2021

Cairo time	DAY 1
09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:20	Opening session (20 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks, IOM - Opening remarks, ESCWA - Jonathan Prentice, Head of Secretariat, UN Network on Migration - Rapporteur for the Multi-stakeholder Consultation
10:20 - 10:40	Scene setting and presentation of the stakeholders’ inputs (20 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recap of the two multi-stakeholder dialogues, ESCWA - Brief presentation on the stakeholders’ inputs, IOM
10:40 - 12:10	Multi-stakeholder panel (90 mins) List of speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative from multi-stakeholder dialogue participants - Representative from Parliamentarians - Representative from child-focused agencies - Representative from women’s group - Representative from civil society - Representative from faith-based organizations - Representative from local authorities and communities - Representative from the private sector - Representative from trade unions - Representative from national human rights institutions and human rights organizations - Representative from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Representative from academia - Representative from the media - Q&A (25 mins) Moderator: TBD
12:10 -13:10	Break (60 minutes)
13:10 - 14:35	Open discussion (85 mins) Guiding question to frame the discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on the status of implementation of regional and national plans and strategies on migration, per relevant GCM objective;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the cross-cutting and interdependent GCM guiding principles, including the whole-of-society and whole-of-government principles, have been integrated by the respective ISCMs into existing plans and policies (and whether that helped address trade-offs and accelerate implementation); - What the main gaps and challenges are to existing approaches, strategies and implementation plans at regional and national level; - Examples of promising practices and lessons learned that may be relevant for other regions (and could be presented at the IMRF); - Areas (GCM objectives and/or guiding principles) where the region would need support in terms of finance, capacity-building, policy advice, data gathering and analysis, technology, partnerships, etc. <p>Moderator: TBD</p>
14:35 -14:45	<p>Wrap-up/key summary of the Consultation (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapporteur for the Multi-stakeholder Consultation
14:45 -15:00	<p>Closing session (15 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN Network Secretariat - ESCWA - IOM