



Report
**Capacity Building Workshop on the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe,
Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region**
10am – 1:00pm Cairo time, Kudoway Virtual Platform
25 June 2020

I. Introduction

- 1- Building on its previous efforts to increase the capacity of Member States, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the UN Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), in collaboration with the relevant UN agencies, who are the members of the Issue Based Coalition on Migration and the UN Network on Migration in the Arab Region, planned to organize a series of online capacity building workshop to support Member States in developing their voluntary Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) reviews. The aim of these workshops is to provide Member States with a platform to become duly updated and informed within the context of the GCM Regional Review, exchange information amongst government and UN agencies, exchange of good practices and explore next steps.
- 2- On 25 June 2020, a virtual, online workshop was held on a virtual platform, it was attended by 140 participants including 16 government representatives from 12 Arab countries¹, as well as UN representatives from 15 entities from various locations., with simultaneous interpretation between Arabic and English. The three-hour workshop consisted of five sessions, including an opening session to set the scene with global and regional overviews of the review process of the GCM. Session One presented guidance on the preparation of the voluntary GCM review. Session Two was dedicated to government representatives' interventions and provided the opportunity for representatives of the twelve countries attending to have an open dialogue on the guiding template on the preparation of the Voluntary GCM Reviews at the country level. Session Three gave the space for the United Nations agencies² to highlight suggestions and offer support with regards to the Voluntary GCM Reviews. The closing session outlined the key highlights of the discussions, noting the Member State led process and the support that may be provided at country level for States' implementation of the GCM.

¹ The 12 Arab countries that were present during the first capacity building workshop are Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia and Yemen

² Attending UN Agencies are: IOM, ESCWA, UNRWA, FAO, UNESCO, UN Women, UNICEF, UN-Resident Coordinator Office, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNDP, ILO, UNFPA, UNDOC, WHO, UNOPS, UNHCR.



II. Working Sessions

A. Opening Session

- 3- IOM, LAS and UN ESCWA, in collaboration with the relevant UN agencies, members of the Issue Based Coalition on Migration and the UN Network on Migration in the Arab Region, welcomed participants to the First Online Session of the Capacity Building Workshop on the Regional Review of the GCM in the Arab Region to support Member States in developing their voluntary GCM reviews. Ms. Carmela Godeau, Regional Director – MENA, IOM, Ms. Enas El Fergany, Director, Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department, LAS and Ms. Sara Salman, Regional Advisor on Population Affairs, ESCWA provided the opening remarks and shared the methodology and main objectives of the Workshop and provided an overview of the agenda.

B. Session 1: Scene setting – Overview of the GCM Review Processes

- 4- The first session of the Workshop focused on building the participants' capacity to review policies and strategies from a holistic lens, determine their alignment with the GCM and identify areas for reform. Ms. Hind Kinani, Regional Research Officer, IOM, moderated the session.
- 5- Mr. Jonathan Prentice, Head of the Secretariat for the UN Network on Migration, launched the session by re-emphasizing the importance of the GCM as a collective roadmap, a great multilateral achievement in 2018. He noted, however, it will not exist without consistent efforts to injecting it with life. He added that COVID-19 pandemic has enhanced the importance of the GCM and that it should not be addressed as separate issue with the response to COVID-19, but as an overlapping one.
- 6- Mr. Prentice continued by saying that it is extremely gratifying to see significant achievements. He noted the GCM is the guiding document and not just collection of intentions, and that Member States are committed to the process and global reviews. He reminded that IOM Director General has already briefed the Arab Member States on the review guidelines and steps in March 2020 in Geneva and that the template ensures consistency between and within regions. All five (5) regions in the UN system are undertaking regional reviews working with Regional UN Networks on Migration and Regional Economic Commissions to ensure that they can be productive and promote open cooperation. Mr. Prentice commended everyone for their commitment for pursuing that more so in these times of COVID-19 pandemic. The ten guiding principles are listed in the outset of the GCM and all are equally important. In addition to this voluntary GCM review process, Mr. Prentice highlighted three elements:
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- The first element is to successfully understand migration in all its dimension, it is important to draw on expertise and experiences of all the actors. The whole of government approach ensures that all sectors, and all actors, both at the national and local levels, are brought into discussions on how to move forward.
 - The second point goes beyond governments' capacities. Therefore, the whole- of -the society approach brings on board all relevant CSOs, migrants, and diaspora organizations, academia, national human rights institutions. Currently, the Network is collecting all relevant expertise and experience and listening all voices.
- Second, it is important to highlight the 360-degree approach of the GCM. This requires not picking elements of the migration agenda, but to focus on the whole narrative of the migration story. This is while recognizing that one state's migration challenges may differ from another. The UN system has come together bringing collective expertise to contribute to bolstering all aspects and no aspect is ignored.
- The third point is on cooperation, which is at the core of the GCM at the international, national, sub-national and regional levels. The GCM recognizes, much if not most of international migration takes place within regions. Hence, the aim is to first undertake regional reviews under the GCM and take the lessons to the global level. There is an opportunity to shape it to make it meaningful for this generation and generations to come.
- 7- Ms. Lobna Azzam, Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department, League of Arab States, gave a presentation on the GCM Regional Review process in the Arab Region. Ms. Azzam reminded participants that the regional review process is the first evaluation of the progress made in implementation of the GCM within the Arab region. It will highlight common challenges, opportunities and promising practices within the region. Ms. Azzam highlighted that regional reviews will also provide a common platform for interaction among all relevant stakeholders. It will highlight the resources needed to implement the GCM and should further facilitate drafting of the regional reports to be presented during the review forum to be held beginning of December 2020.
- 8- Ms. Azzam continued to present the efforts of the LAS to support the Member States in the implementation of the GCM. Ms. Azzam gave a brief on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) LAS being the Technical Secretariat, and the establishment of the Issue Based Coalition in the Arab region Ms. Azzam further presented the joint efforts and organization of the regional conference on the GCM to highlight the implementation of the agreement and its impact on migration policies in the Arab region.
- 9- Ms. Kristina Mejo, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer and Deputy Regional Director, IOM provided an overview of the GCM, its objectives, and guiding principles, as briefly touched by Mr. Prentice. She highlighted the aspirational, balanced, state-led and people-centered approach to the GCM and its linkages with the SDGs.



- 10- Ms. Mejo presented the vision of the GCM and reiterated that there is a collective commitment to improve cooperation. Ms. Mejo further reminded participants of our shared responsibility and unity of purpose.
- 11- Ms. Mejo concluded her presentation and the first session by highlighting the importance of the COVID-19 response and global commitments to address the pandemic to be implemented through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals and the GCM objectives.

C. Session 2: Preparation of voluntary GCM reviews

- 12- The second session included a presentation of the Guiding Template of the Voluntary GCM Review given by Ms. Sara Salman, Regional Advisor on Population Affairs, ESCWA. The aim of this session is to explain about the five parts of the template, namely: the methodology, public policy and enabling environment; progress in achieving the GCM objectives; means of implementation and next steps. The template/form is developed by the UN Network on Migration and has been adapted to the region. Ms. Salman started by presenting the nature of the review, being a voluntary, self-review and state-led process to assess progress in implementation of the GCM
- 13- She then presented the methodology for preparing the voluntary GCM review process, using a whole of government, whole of society, and 360-degree approach. She elaborated on part two of the Guiding Template which assesses whether public policy and an enabling environment are conducive to the implementation of the GCM.
- 14- Furthermore, Ms. Salman explained that Part three of the template should reflect the progress achieved in the implementation of the GCM, while Part four and five explore the means of implementation and follow up steps, respectively.

D. Session 3: Tour de table: Open discussion with Member States on preparations for the voluntary GCM reviews

- 15- The third session was moderated by Ms. Salman, to guide the discussion with Member States on the preparation of the voluntary GCM reviews.
The first intervention came from the representative of the Government of Yemen, Mr. Mohammed Al-Adil, Vice Minister of Immigration Affairs, Ministry of Expatriate Affairs. He began by thanking IOM, LAS and ESCWA for organizing the workshop to contribute and enable the Government of Yemen to actively participate to the regional GCM review. The representative noted that given the situation in Yemen, it would be difficult to coordinate with the different stakeholders and prepare the voluntary review in time. He emphasized that Yemen could only reflect a portion of the efforts and asked if this is acceptable. He concluded his intervention by emphasizing the repercussions of the current situation in Yemen.



- 16- The Government of Iraq made the second intervention. The government representative, Mr. Ahmad Hassan Raheem, Chief of External Migration Section, Ministry of Migration and Emigrants, asserted that in Iraq, the reporting mechanism is established in partnership with IOM and efforts deployed under the leadership of the government with the guidance of IOM. Iraq has started a data collection process and guidelines to formulate a national migration policy that is in line with the GCM³ and the mechanisms needed to achieve it at country level, particularly in view of the economic crisis that several countries are going through. Finally, the Government of Iraq reiterated the significant role IOM plays in Iraq and its efforts through technical and in-kind assistance, creating opportunities and facilitating reintegration.
- 17- The representative of the Government of Palestine, Mr. Mahmoud Ataya, Director General-Policy and Reform Unit, Office of the Prime Minister made an intervention highlighting the difficulties the country is facing and it being a migrant-sending country due to political factors, and the challenge they would face in preparing their national report given that they live under occupation and do not control their borders. The representative concluded his remarks by inquiring about the mechanisms available to receive support on the GCM implementation and review and said that Palestine can provide a report on certain Objectives that are of concern in preparation for the regional review.
- 18- The fourth intervention came from the representative of Government of Somalia, Ambassador Mariam Yassin Hagi Yussuf, Special Envoy for Migrants and Children, who noted that Somalia is currently working on drafting a Nation Migration Policy in consultation with several stakeholders. The policy will be based on the guiding principles of the GCM. The representative highlighted that Somalia requires support as the enabling environment is challenging, but progress is being made as relevant structures are being put in place. The Government of Somalia still feels the impact of COVID-19 on economic growth, specifically on remittances of migrants, noting that this should be absorbed and resolved within the framework of the GCM. The representative concluded her intervention by asserting that Somalia has made a significant step by actively participating in regional consultations.
- 19- Following this, the Government of Egypt, represented by Ambassador Amr El-Sherbini, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Migration, Refugees and Combating Human Trafficking Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, affirmed Egypt's support to the regional review and the guiding template. At the national level, the Government of Egypt established a National Committee to follow up on GCM objectives, consisting of all representatives from all Ministries and relevant stakeholders. The representative noted the

³ Objective 2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin



challenges in coordination and informed that the first draft of the voluntary GCM review has started based on the proposed methodology in the guiding template.

- 20- The Jordanian government representative, Mr. Khaled Alghthian, Ministry of Labor, Department of Migrant workers, highlighted some of the migration challenges in Jordan including the reliance on remittances and the high labour migration which consists of over a million migrants, resulting in a wide-spread unemployment. In that context, the Government of Jordan have created 200,000 opportunities for the migrants in the private sector. The speaker also shared that as a result of the economic crisis, 45% of the Jordanians want to migrate.
- 21- For the final intervention, Morocco, represented by Mr. Abidine Abdelkader, Chief of Division of Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighted Morocco's active role in the consultations leading to the adoption of the Compact. He commended the methodology and reiterated Morocco's commitment to continue actively taking part in all national, regional and Arab consultations on the implementation of the GCM.
- 22- Ms. Salman summarized the questions and explained that Arab countries should have clear messages emanating from the regional review. She noted that a regional UN network was established to provide the technical support required for the review for interested countries. Ms. Salman invited participants to think further about how to optimize coordination to prepare the voluntary review in view of the COVID-19 and inquired if countries are planning to conduct national stakeholders' consultations to reflect all whole of society approach in the review process. She concluded by summarizing the review process which will end in the first regional forum to be that be held on 1-2 December 2020 and invited participating countries to contact the Organizers in case they needed more guidance on the process. Mr. Ataya noted that part 3 of the methodology requires more clarity as well as additional questions/indicators to measure the commitment of countries for achieving the objectives and the progress made. He also proposed to rethink the last question in part 2 on the evaluation of strategies.

E. Session 4: UN agencies: Practical suggestions for preparing voluntary GCM reports and potential for support

- 23- The fourth and the last session was moderated by Ms. Kristina Mejo. She thanked government representatives for their very active participations and taking part in the discussions. Ms. Mejo reiterated the importance of collective and coordinated efforts of countries as the GCM's implementation starts first and foremost at the country level. Through the formation of the UN Networks on Migration, both at the regional and national levels in some countries, it allows for the consolidated UN system-wide support to assist Member States in the implementation of the GCM. She stressed that IOM, as Coordinator and Secretariat of the UN Network, stands ready to support Member States in coordination



with UN agencies. Ms. Mejo then continued by presenting the last session of the workshop whereby the UN agencies presented their respective work and support provided to countries in implementation of GCM.

- 24- The first presentation of the session was conducted by Ms. Dalia Abulfotuh, Agricultural Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa. Ms. Aboufotuh started her presentation by providing a quick summary on FAO's work in the area of migration, while also highlighting the effect of climate change on both food insecurity and migration. Ms. Aboufotuh further emphasized the FAO's support to migrants before, during, and after migration. She concluded her presentation by reiterating FAO's readiness to support countries through field projects, capacity building, policy support and the generation and dissemination of knowledge and evidence.
- 25- The following presentation was given by Mr. Ryszard Cholewinski, Senior Migration Specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO), Regional Office for Arab States. In his presentation, Mr. Cholewinski, emphasized the importance of decent work and labour migration through the GCM and its implementation in the region. He further presented latest ILO statistics on the migrant workers with emphasize that numbers in the MENA region represents 14.5 % of the global figure. Mr. Cholewinski continued his presentation by providing some examples of ILO's support to implement the GCM, namely objectives two³, fifteen⁴, and eighteen⁵. To conclude, Mr. Cholewinski talked about the impact of COVID-19 and migrant workers in the context of repatriation issues and impact of the quarantine measures to migrant workers. He emphasized the upcoming challenges in reintegrating returning nationals in the labor market. He also said that we cannot address the GCM without listing trade unions and the need for Civil Society Organizations to be involved at the national level. He concluded that labor policies are based on disaggregated data and therefore emphasized the need to collect segregated data.
- 26- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provided the third presentation which was facilitated by Mr. Ben Lewis, Human Rights Officer, Migration and Human Rights, OHCHR. Mr. Lewis highlighted OHCHR's role in following closely with the GCM implementation as an Executive Committee member of the UN Network on Migration. He noted that the GCM is based on international legal frameworks. He also noted that OHCHR is supporting Member States in the GCM implementation as a human rights leading expert through capacity building normative support in implementation and review. Mr. Lewis concluded his presentation by informing participants of the effective border management package on the GCM principles and

⁴ Objective 15. Provide access to basic services for migrants

⁵ Objective 18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences



guidelines⁶. Mr. Lewis confirmed OHCHR's commitment to deliver capacity building workshops at regional and national levels looking into vulnerability in the context of migration.

- 27- Ms. Teona Aslanishvili, Child Protection Specialist, from The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) MENA Regional Office gave a presentation on practical suggestions for conducting voluntary GCM reviews that are child sensitive. Ms. Aslanishvili began her presentation by identifying the GCM objectives relevant to children, in order to assess progress. She then continued to emphasize the importance of designing the voluntary GCM review methodology in a way that ensures child sensitivity and child focus. Ms. Aslanishvili concluded her presentation by reiterating UNICEF's readiness and willingness to assist and support countries on the GCM implementation.
- 28- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) presentation followed, which was provided by Ana Belén Anguita Arjona, Senior Cash Based Programme Officer and Mixed Movements Focal Point, MENA Regional Bureau, UNHCR. Ms. Anguita started the presentation also by highlighting UNHCR role as one of the eight Executive Committee members of the UN Network on Migration aiming at helping respective governments to support the implementation of the GCM. Ms. Anguita further emphasized the difference between migrants and refugees in respects of rights and provision of protection. Moreover, Ms. Anguita asserted UNHCR's role in providing specific support through enhanced availability and accessibility of pathways of migration. Ms. Anguita concluded her presentation by reiterating UNHCR's readiness and willingness to continue supporting respective governments in the GCM implementation.
- 29- The last presentation of the session was conducted by Ms. Jean D'Cunha, Senior Global Advisor on International Migration, UN Women – Regional Office for Arab States. Ms. D'Cunha began by emphasizing the significant role of women migrants in the region and especially in the Gulf countries. UN Women commended the governments working on issues of migration and making substantial changes, especially in the laws of domestic workers. Ms. D'Cunha reiterated the role of UN Women as part of the UN Network on Migration, the Regional Issue Based Coalition on Migration, as well as National UN Networks on Migration. She further noted that UN Women works on supporting data collection, policy advocacy, providing assistance to program implementation in partnership with other UN agencies and CSOs with particular focus on gender empowerment, and provision on information of women migrant workers.

⁶ Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/PrinciplesAndGuidelines_AR.pdf
Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/OHCHR_Recommended_Principles_Guidelines_AR.pdf



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F. Closing session: wrap up and way forward

- 30- The workshop was concluded by LAS, ESCWA and IOM informing participants to kindly submit their draft reports of the regional GCM review process by mid-August.
- 31- Ms. Mejo closed the workshop by thanking partner agencies and participants for their active participation and deliberations.



Annex I: Questions

Salah Al-Saleh - UNFPA GCC: What procedures are in place to ensure the implementation and inclusion in national policies since it is not legally binding? - If countries are asked to report on the implementation or measures taken for inclusion. This could create domestically, within the governments the opportunity of nominating focal points or even task force working on GCM as well the chance for the countries to learn from each other.

Between Younes, UN Network on Migration: By adopting the GCM, governments commit to working together on all migration issues. They recognize that migration is multi-dimensional. These actions are based on internationally recognized best practices and lessons learnt that were collected in the consultation process ahead of the negotiations. To follow up on the GCM and how it is implemented, that is why the Secretary-General has decided to establish the United Nations Network on Migration, coordinated and served by the International Organization for Migration to ensure effective and coherent support of the UN System to governments in their implementation of the Global Compact. This coordination is there to ensure a 1) regular review of progress in implementing GCM commitments using bench-marking to identify achievements, barriers and priorities for action; 2) Capacity building measures in line with the identified priorities (such as what we are having now); and 3) On-going broad-based dialogue to continue forging consensus on outstanding issues and to address emerging challenges. To review the implementation progress, two complementary processes are foreseen: A review on the global level, coordinated by the newly named International Migration Review Forum, is scheduled to meet every four years starting in 2022 and a review of the implementation in the regions, beginning in 2020 and alternating with the global level every four years. The GCM also encourages states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level, such as through the voluntary elaboration and use of a national implementation plan.



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