

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

National Outreach event in Libya - Preparation for GCM Review in the Arab Region

22 February 2021, Online event on Zoom

1. Context and background

After years of consultations, through the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, for the first time UN Member States came together and recognized the importance of a coordinated and comprehensive approach to human mobility at the global level. The New York Declaration led to the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement covering all aspects and dimensions of migration.

Despite its non-binding nature, the GCM, adopted by the majority of UN Member States at an Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh on the 10 December 2018 (resolution 73/195), is an important step to set a common global framework for states to improve the governance of migration, address the challenges linked to human mobility and reaffirm the potential of migration for the achievement of sustainable development. In line with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the GCM underlines the states' intention to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, calling for the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, for the benefit of all. In particular, it aims at fostering international cooperation in order to enhance global governance and international cooperation on human mobility, while addressing all dimensions of it, including humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related. In order to ensure good migration governance, the pact promotes whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and building strong partnerships at the national, regional and global levels as central principles.

Despite not being a signatory to the GCM, Libya showed a serious commitment to participate in the different fora and platforms to discuss progress and share good practices on the implementation of the objectives of the Pact. In preparation of the upcoming Regional Review of the implementation of the Global Compact in the Arab Region, Libya prepared and submitted its national review report and expressed its commitment to continue improving migration management in line with the recommendations contained in the GCM. In this respect, Libya has set up the "National Committee for Migration Strategies" which is a multi-sector committee to work on a strategic plan for the national migration management system in the country.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is designated as Global Coordinator and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration and is requested to assist in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact. In line with the Organizations global commitment, IOM Libya works closely with the Libyan government to strengthen migration management, and to promote dialogue amongst relevant Libyan stakeholders while ensuring that they are fully up to date and can contribute to the various GCM reviews activities. IOM Libya also aims at working towards the establishment of a UN Network on Migration in Libya, with the UN Country Team and the Libyan stakeholders.

GCM Regional Review Conference in the Arab Region

The GCM foresees a set of concrete commitments and actions, together with a framework to monitor states' achievements to measure effective implementation, through calls for voluntary follow up and review. Aside from the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) at the global level to discuss and share progress, and system wide consultations, the implementation of the GCM will be reviewed at the regional level to inform the global dialogue taking place every four years. This is particularly relevant, considering that most international migration takes place within regions.

As a very active region during the consultations, and with 20 countries from the region having adopted the GCM, the Arab region had its first Regional Review Conference online between 24 and 25 February 2021, following a Multi-stakeholder Consultation on 23 February. In this occasion, member states came together to assess the progress made in implementing the GCM within their region but also had a forum to exchange on good practices and challenges, discuss migratory trends in the region and priorities as well as take stock of inputs from various other regional review processes. The regional Conference brought together representatives of Member States as well as a wide range of stakeholders in migration governance, such as intergovernmental organizations, regional consultative processes, UN agencies, civil society organizations, trade unions, businesses, national human rights institutions, academics, experts, the media, and migrants themselves among others, in line with the whole-of-government and whole-of-society guiding principles.

Adoption of the Global Compact for Migration

Adopted by over 160 UN Member States during the conference on 10-11 Dec in Marrakech

"The overwhelming support of the international community for this Compact is also the expression of multilateralism at its best." (Quote SRSG)

Launch of the UN Network on Migration by SG

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2. Objectives of the event

IOM Libya organized a National CGM Outreach event, aiming at ensuring national dialogue and giving relevant stakeholders in Libya the possibility to share experiences, identify priorities and provide common inputs in view of the Regional Review Conference.

During the event, IOM presented the GCM principles and objectives, as well as increased stakeholder's understanding of the Regional Review Process.

The representatives of Libya presented the voluntary GCM review report that was subsequently discussed and presented during the regional review and agreed on a set of key messages and recommendations that informed the Regional Review Process.

This online meeting has also been a great opportunity to present the UN Network on Migration in Libya, and to discuss its potential mandate and role in the country.

3. Structure and outcomes of the event

a. Participants

Participants were invited from different entities:

Government	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, Bureau of Statistics
NGOs	Representatives from 7 Libyan NGOs: Moomken, Jusoor, Life Makers, IOCEA, Mediterranean Center for Studies and Research, The Libyan Center for Future Studies, Ranwa Center, Libyan Red Cross
Academia:	Independent researchers on migration

Representatives of the following entities confirmed their participation:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Labor
- NGOs: IOECEA, Ranwa Center, Libyan National Human Rights Committee, Libyan Red Crescent (LRC)

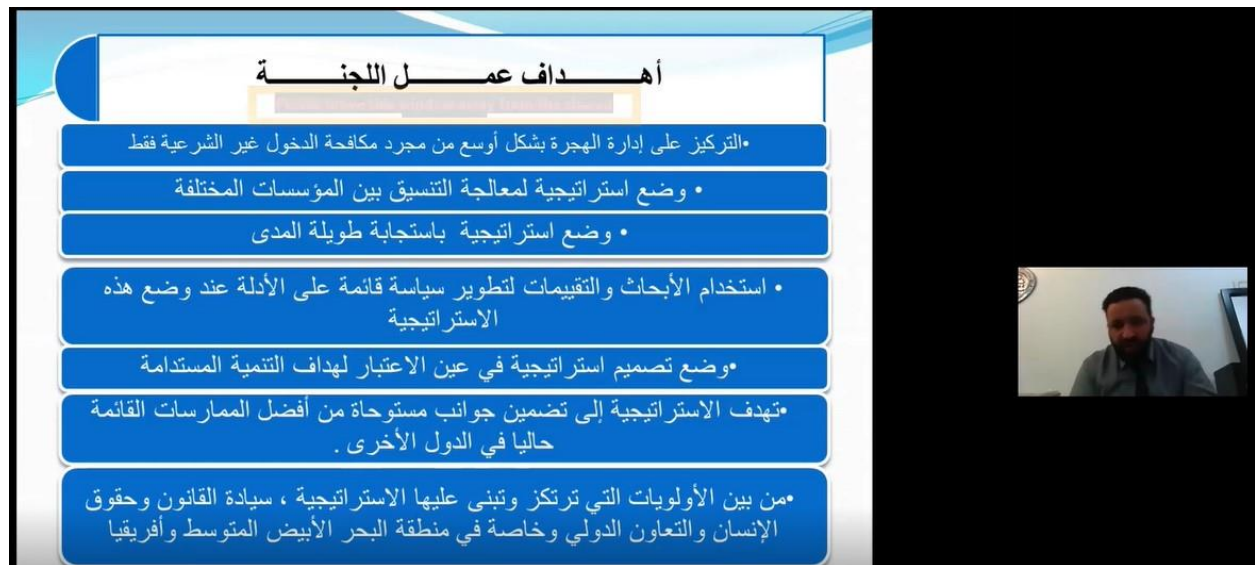
A security incident on Sunday 21 February in proximity of the IOM office in Tripoli made it impossible for participants to come to the office and attend the event in person as previously foreseen (respecting all COVID-19 protocols). Moreover, sudden and repeated electricity cuts made it difficult for some participants to log in and attend the entire event online. As a result, IOECEA, Ranwa Center and the LRC were not able to join due to technical issues they faced the day of the event.

b. Agenda

10:45-11:00	Registration of participants
11:00-11:15	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Claudia Natali, Senior Programme Development & Donor Relations Officer, IOM Libya
11:15-11:40	Scene Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GCM principles, objectives, follow up and review process in the Arab region• The role of the UN Network on Migration globally and the establishment of the UN Network on Migration in Libya- Ms. Claudia Natali, Senior Programme Development & Donor Relations Officer, IOM Libya

11:40-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the National Report on the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. - Mr. Siraj Baitulmal, Libya focal point the GCM, MoFA
12:00-12:30	<p>Open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key messages and recommendations to present at the Regional review process in the Arab Region for Libya. - Moderator: Mr. Siraj Baitulmal, Libya focal point the GCM, MoFA
12:30-12:45	<p>Debrief and closing remarks</p> <p>Coffee refreshment</p>

c. Key messages for the GCM Review in the Arab Region Conference



أهداف عمل اللجنة

- التركيز على إدارة الهجرة بشكل أوسع من مجرد مكافحة الدخول غير الشرعية فقط
- وضع استراتيجية لمعالجة التنسيق بين المؤسسات المختلفة
- وضع استراتيجية باستجابة طويلة المدى
- استخدام الأبحاث والتقييمات لتطوير سياسة قائمة على الأدلة عند وضع هذه الاستراتيجية
- وضع تصميم استراتيجية في عين الاعتبار لهداف التنمية المستدامة
- تهدف الاستراتيجية إلى تضمين جوانب مستوحاة من أفضل الممارسات القائمة حالياً في الدول الأخرى .
- من بين الأولويات التي تركز وتبنى عليها الاستراتيجية ، سيادة القانون وحقوق الإنسان والتعاون الدولي وخاصة في منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط وأفريقيا

Libya's position on the GCM

- Libya approves of the principles that have inspired the development of the GCM, yet it has reservations on a number of points, hence it refrained from signing the agreement.
- Nevertheless, Libya aims at monitoring the developments in regard to the implementation of the provisions of the agreement by the signatory states, and the advantages and disadvantages as well as the lessons to be learned from this process. Hence, Libya is actively participating in the GCM review process, in order to continuously renew and re-evaluate its position in regard to the GCM.

Libya's commitment in improving migration governance in the country.

- In spite of Libya's reservation on signing the GCM, the Libyan government has demonstrated its commitment in improving migration governance in Libya, notwithstanding the political and

security challenges, and exerted tremendous efforts with the relevant national and international entities. Concrete, Libya demonstrated its commitment through:

- Establishing the National committee of experts aiming at devising policies and strategies of migration. While the Committee was not set up to ensure the GCM implementation, it provides for a forum of discussion of migration strategies in Libya;
- Establishing a multisectoral sustainable coordination strategy, focusing on rule of law and human rights, and international cooperation, especially in the Mediterranean region and in Africa. This strategy is expected to improve migration governance according to a unified central migration management system or a multi-institutional migration management system;
- The use of research and surveys to develop an evidence-based policy when devising these strategies;
- The demonstrated will to develop a migrants' data registration system, in cooperation with IOM;
- The creation of a labor market data bank (MoL);
- Remaining committed to rescue operations in Libya's territorial waters, while stressing that rescues in international waters is a shared responsibility;
- Remaining committed to collaborating with embassies and relevant international organizations in regard to voluntary return of migrants;
- Demonstrated willingness to combat human smuggling and trafficking. The Ministry of Justice is working closely with UNODC, IOM and UNICEF to develop its capacities and knowledge of the aspects related to human smuggling and trafficking, and is considering creating a special capacity building program for law enforcement on the issue.

Recommendations from the civil society:

- The creation of a mutual convention between Libyan authorities and UNHCR to delineate, via a legal framework, the mandate and competence of UNHCR;
- Provide capacity building assistance not only to the Libyan Coast Guard, but also to border guards in the South of Libya, in order to combat human trafficking and smuggling.