

GCM regional review – Canada’s submission of voluntary inputs

Canada presents its compliments to the United Nations Network on Migration and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and expresses its appreciation for this opportunity to review the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) at a regional level. Canada welcomes the opportunity to provide a snapshot of its progress to date through the submission of voluntary inputs.

Canada views the regional review process as an opportunity to undertake a necessary first assessment of the progress made by governments to date and of the gaps and challenges that remain. Going forward, as Member States and the international community remain focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, the review process and similar opportunities for exchange can play a vital role in drawing attention to ways in which the GCM can support post-COVID recovery efforts. While the pandemic does present new challenges to migration, the Government of Canada also strongly believes that it presents us with new opportunities to highlight the importance of international cooperation, and the multilateral system writ large, in support of safe, orderly, and regular migration.

To underscore Canada’s support of the GCM, Canada has recently accepted an invitation from the UN Network on Migration to be a GCM champion country. Canada looks forward to continued international engagement and dialogue, including in its new role as a champion country for the GCM.

1. Methodology for preparing the voluntary GCM reviews *(suggested 500 words)*

- (a) This section may discuss the methodology that was adopted for the review, including its scope, depth and limitations and how the vision and guiding principles of the GCM (paras 8 to 15) and on follow-up and review of the GCM (para 48 to 54) were applied, including whether the review was part of a process to elaborate a national implementation plan drawing on contributions from all relevant stakeholders (para 53).**
- (b) Information on the process for preparation of the review may be presented, including, for example, how different relevant levels and sectors of government contributed to the responses and whether and how the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches were applied; whether parliaments and local authorities were engaged; what mechanisms have been used to engage civil society and other relevant stakeholders; how regional organisations were included and whether the UN Country Teams were engaged and how any regional dynamics may have informed the review.**

In preparing for the regional review, Canada adopted a whole-of-government approach. Canada has also taken important steps in elaborating a whole-of-society approach to the GCM’s implementation. As Canada prepares for the global review and undertakes its champion role, it will seek to deepen and extend these approaches.

Whole-of-government approach

Canada applied a whole-of-government approach in implementing the GCM generally, and in preparing for the review, recognizing that “migration is a multidimensional reality that cannot be

addressed by one government policy sector alone”, as stipulated in the GCM Guiding Principles. Following adoption of the Compact, Canada engaged other levels of government, including provinces, territories and municipalities, in order to understand the extent to which existing practices were consistent with the Compact. This engagement followed from consultations with provinces and territories during the negotiations of the GCM. For Canada, engaging the whole-of-government is crucial as the responsibilities for migration policies and programming fall to different levels of government, and provinces have shared or sole jurisdiction over areas covered by the GCM.

Canada’s implementation of the GCM is an ongoing and collaborative effort across the Government of Canada. This effort responds to the GCM Guiding Principle to establish policy coherence, seeking to bridge international engagement on migration, and domestic migration policy and programming. In terms of international engagement on migration, Canada is coordinating internally to ensure a “GCM lens” is incorporated in all migration work. The Government of Canada has also been engaged to help identify best practices and potential areas to engage on with interested states and partners. As detailed below, Canada has also experimented with incorporating a “GCM lens” as an additional factor when reporting on domestic migration policies and programs.

Canada maintains an overview of existing domestic and international programming and practices across the government and how they advance GCM principles. This helps Canada to understand how it is already achieving the 23 objectives of the GCM and its guiding principles through its domestic and international engagement, and to identify where any gaps may exist.

Whole-of-society approach

Canada has also taken steps to engage in a whole-of-society approach to implementation, and commits to deepening this approach. Throughout the process to develop the Compact, Canada reached out to relevant stakeholders, including a group of migration experts referred to as the Canada Migration Experts Group (the “Group”). Canada also consulted civil society organizations - key partners in Canada’s successful migration management ecosystem – to better understand the extent to which their practices align with the GCM and to invite them to share their views on areas the Government of Canada could consider prioritizing.

Regional coordination

Finally, as a member state of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) – a consultative process that includes countries of North and Central America plus the Dominican Republic – Canada has also been engaging Member States on GCM implementation, including by sharing its progress during the recent Regional Consultation Group on Migration from September 28-30. These working group discussions included progress to date and future plans on topics such as irregular and mass migration.

2. Policy and enabling environment *(suggested 1500 words)*

- (a) **The review could outline efforts made to inform all relevant stakeholders and involve them in the implementation and review of the GCM. The review could address how different stakeholders¹ have been enabled to participate in the process and content of the review and how this engagement has been facilitated, promoting gender equality and inclusion.**
- (b) **Member States are encouraged to describe how the government has integrated GCM implementation into SDG implementation and other relevant processes.**
- (c) **Member States are encouraged to report on migration policies and other relevant policies or measures and institutional changes or barriers they have faced in putting in place such policies or measures, including the possible internal consequences of regional dynamics, policies or measures.**
- (d) **Member States are encouraged to review the status of implementation of regional plans and strategies on migration and to indicate the main gaps and challenges to existing regional approaches, strategies and implementation plans.**

Canada's efforts to implement the GCM are consistent with other Government of Canada priorities and policies, and Canada has taken additional steps to further advance GCM implementation by ensuring that the broader environment is an enabling one. Moreover, the Government of Canada has prioritized inclusive implementation of the GCM.

The GCM and the 2030 Agenda

Canada is working to make progress on all aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through domestic and international action – including initiatives to eradicate poverty, advance gender equality, protect the planet, and improve equality of opportunity for all. Canada recognizes that the GCM is rooted in the 2030 Agenda, and is an essential element of the implementation of the migration-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda's call to "leave no one behind" is reflected in Canada's implementation of the GCM, through our focus on inclusive and gender-responsive migration management, such as in our response to meet the needs of Venezuelan migrants and refugees. As reflected in this example and others in the following section, Canada understands the 2030 Agenda and the GCM as mutually reinforcing frameworks, working towards similar goals, via a similar set of underlying principles.

The GCM in the broader Government of Canada policy environment

Canada's implementation of the GCM is framed by several overarching international policies that inform the approach and focus of its engagement. Canada's overarching Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) and its Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), which sets out Canada's feminist and human-rights based approach to its international assistance, influence Canada's implementation efforts. The Feminist Foreign Policy applies a feminist lens to all aspects of Canada's international engagement, and calls for policy, advocacy and program efforts to focus on addressing fundamental structural barriers that prevent gender equality, taking into account the needs of those most affected by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Canada

¹ Including migrants, civil society, migrant, youth and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders at global, regional and national levels.

has sought to recognize and address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by migrants, particularly women and girls, on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, race, national or ethnic origin, language, and other relevant identity characteristics in implementation of the GCM. Adopting a feminist and human rights-based approach means supporting the voice, agency and empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity and others who face discrimination or marginalization, including migrants and refugees. In doing so, Canada seeks to bring about transformative change, leaving societies more equal, prosperous and peaceful. Canada has been a strong advocate for meaningful inclusion of gender responsiveness in the Global Compact for Migration and it is pursuing its commitment in a number of ways. Canada is, for example, funding the International Migration Research Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University to create and develop an online interactive GCM Gender Hub, which will provide comprehensive guidance and resources to states on designing, implementing and evaluating gender-responsive migration policies in line with the GCM (see following section for additional details).

Likewise, the Government of Canada requires all federal government departments to apply a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens when developing policies, programs and legislation, which further advance the domestic implementation and international promotion of a gender-responsive Compact. This analysis ensures that Government of Canada actions account for the intersecting identity factors of diverse groups of women, men and non-binary people and the specific vulnerabilities they may face. It provides federal officials with the means to attain better results by ensuring that policy changes are inclusive of diverse identities, perspectives and realities, including those of women and girls. Federal departments also offer their employees specific GBA+ training opportunities to support gender-responsive policy development.

Canada's efforts to promote the GCM similarly rest on the following pillars of its broader approach to migration diplomacy: promoting well-managed migration systems and deterring irregular migration; supporting other states' efforts on settlement and integration; promoting balanced public narratives on migrants and refugees; and responding to emerging policy issues. Together, these policies inform the work Canada undertakes to implement the 23 objectives of the GCM, its vision, and guiding principles.

Inclusive implementation

Canada is also striving to ensure that its approach to GCM implementation is as inclusive as possible in terms of how stakeholders are engaged and what partnerships are formed. When Canada struck the Canadian Migration Experts Group to advise throughout the development of the GCM, a diversity of views were heard and considered. Canada is planning targeted discussions to hear advice on further implementation and international engagement as part of the champion role that will again seek out diverse perspectives. Canada will also seek to consult more widely in the lead-up to the International Migration Review Forum in 2022. Similarly, Canada has approached implementation with a view to partnering with a diverse group of stakeholders, including other government partners and CSOs. The Government of Canada, consistent with its overarching policies, seeks to engage CSOs that represent the experiences of women, girls, and gender-diverse persons. For example, to respond to the needs of Venezuelan

migrants and refugees, Canada has worked with a range of partners to further objectives such as addressing migrant vulnerabilities, as detailed below. These include the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), states in the region, and local and international CSOs.

Enabling further implementation

The IOM's Migration Governance Indicators is a tool to assess the maturity of national migration systems. [The 2020 Report](#) for Canada showcases a number of Canadian best practices related to GCM implementation that can be shared as part of global efforts to exchange on lessons learned. Beyond this specific reporting exercise, one challenge for Canada is to ensure that the inclusion of the GCM framework in internal reporting can meaningfully influence policy and program development.

The Government of Canada, as noted in the previous section, similarly makes efforts to integrate GCM objectives and principles more widely into its international assistance and diplomatic engagements.

3. Progress on GCM objectives *(suggested 2000 words)*

- (a) Member States are invited to provide brief information on the country-level implementation plans and the status of implementation of all 23 objectives of the GCM, with space given to illustrating innovative policies or promising practices related to any of the objectives. Where possible, information should be based on statistical as well as qualitative data.**
- (b) Member States are invited to describe what steps the government has taken to integrate the vision and cross-cutting and interdependent GCM guiding principles into the implementation plans.**
- (c) Member States could present critical difficulties envisioned or encountered in reaching GCM objectives and how they could be addressed. The consideration of the objectives could focus on trends, successes, challenges, emerging issues, and lessons learned, including as impacted by regional dynamics, and describe what actions have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges.**
- (d) Member States could provide examples of promising practices and lessons learned that may be relevant for other countries in the region (or across regions).**

Canada continues to examine the GCM in the Canadian context. Ongoing analyses of policies and programs have shown that Canada is well-aligned with the 23 objectives of the GCM. As part of ongoing efforts to reflect on how the GCM's objectives can be further advanced, both domestically and internationally, Canada welcomes this review and future opportunities to exchange on promising practices and lessons learned.

One challenge experienced by Canada is raising awareness of the GCM given the range and diversity of partners and stakeholders implicated in implementation. Efforts to reach out to partners and stakeholders have in some cases been met with limited uptake. Despite this, many, if not most, migration practices seen in the Canadian context embody the principles and objectives of the GCM. To overcome this challenge, Canada will work to raise further awareness of the GCM across the Government of Canada and with partners and stakeholders, such as by continuing to hold targeted discussions with stakeholders.

While Member States will face numerous migration-related challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada is renewing its commitment to GCM implementation. In this unprecedented context, as countries seek to meet their human rights obligations towards migrants, while in recovery from the economic damage caused by the pandemic, international cooperation is more important than ever. Indeed, many countries may wish to utilize migration as one means by which recovery may be achieved. Canada looks forward to sharing its experiences on migration management in its role as a champion country for the GCM and through the Network's knowledge-sharing platforms. Such processes of international exchange and dialogue will also support Canada as it reflects on its own migration system and how to respond to the challenges posed by the current context.

Below are some recent initiatives that could inform the types of good practices Canada can share internationally in support of GCM implementation. While most of these are pre-COVID-19 measures, they continue to be relevant in the current global context:

Encouraging a gender-responsive approach to migration management (Objectives 1, 7, 16):

Canada believes it is important to provide targeted programming for migrant women and girls to effectively address their needs and priorities. For example, Canada implemented the Visible Minority Newcomer Women (VMNW) Pilot in December 2018. A three-year, \$31.9-million commitment, the VMNW Pilot aims to improve employment outcomes for visible minority newcomer women by addressing their unique barriers to accessing the Canadian labour market. It will, for example, increase existing, effective services that already serve visible minority newcomer women; establish new partnerships that, among other actions, build capacity in smaller organizations that serve or are led by visible minority newcomer women; and test and evaluate labour market programming for visible minority newcomer women.

Canada is also co-hosting the fourth Canada-European Union (EU) Migration Platform Event, which will focus on the Integration of Migrant Women. In recognition that migrant women are disproportionately impacted by gender inequalities and at increased risk for economic and social marginalization, violence, and discrimination, the event will promote promising practices in Canada and EU Member States for achieving successful integration, while considering the impact of COVID on integration efforts.

Shaping the Public Narrative – Promoting a Balanced Dialogue (Objectives 1, 16, 17): Strengthening social cohesion is a priority for Canada, and the government strongly supports efforts to improve integration, mitigate social exclusion and build a sense of trust and belonging within communities. Balanced narratives on migration can play a key role in this respect by combating xenophobia and building support for diversity. Domestically, research shows that while Canadians tend to be in favour of immigration on a national level, they are less likely to see the benefits personally, at the community level. Canada recognizes the importance of acknowledging and addressing the legitimate concerns the public can have about immigration while also promoting the benefits that well-managed migration can hold. To help achieve this objective, Canada launched the “Immigration Matters” communications campaign in 2018, which uses a storytelling approach combined with facts and data to demonstrate the economic, social and cultural benefits of immigration at the local level. Results from Gallup's second

international *Migrant Acceptance Index* survey, conducted in 2019, indicate that Canada is leading the world on the acceptance of migrants with the highest score of all countries surveyed.

In 2019, in order to support the promotion of more objective narratives on migration worldwide, Canada led the development of a communications guide that governments and key partners, including civil society and businesses, can use in promoting a balanced narrative on migration and migrants. This guide was presented at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit in Quito, Ecuador in January 2020. Canada is now co-chairing, along with the Government of Ecuador and the GFMD Mayors Mechanism, a new multi-stakeholder GFMD Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration. One of the key initiatives that Canada is advancing through the working group is the creation of a global, multi-stakeholder communications campaign that will engage diverse actors in showcasing the positive impact of migration – a “global campaign with local impacts”. The GCM’s principle of a whole-of-society approach with broad, multi-stakeholder partnerships is therefore a central pillar of this initiative.

Supporting vulnerable workers (Objectives 3, 6, 7, 16): The Canadian government has made a concerted effort to review relevant policies to ensure that vulnerable migrants are provided necessary support and that their human rights are protected. To this end, investments have been made to strengthen the federal government’s Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program compliance regime, which is designed to protect foreign workers by verifying that employers are meeting their obligations under the Program. In 2019, Canada introduced a new open work permit authority for temporary foreign workers (TFWs) experiencing or at risk of job-related abuse in Canada. The open work permit provides workers with a means to leave an abusive employment situation and seek alternative employment through a streamlined process without jeopardizing their authorization to work in Canada, supporting the GCM objective of addressing and reducing migrants’ vulnerabilities.

The “open work permit for vulnerable workers” is part of a broader effort on the part of the Canadian government to review relevant policies to ensure that migrants in vulnerable situations are provided with necessary support and that their human rights are protected. The federal government has also launched initiatives with a focus on enabling workers to better understand and exercise their rights, such as the Migrant Worker Support Network, which brings together a variety of stakeholders, including migrant workers, community organizations, provincial and territorial governments, employer associations and organized labour. Additional investments to support vulnerable migrant workers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic have also been made, which include further enhancing the aforementioned inspections regime, funding direct outreach to workers (through migrant worker support organizations), and supporting infrastructure improvements to worksites and worker accommodations.

Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking (Objectives 1, 7, 10): Canada remains firmly committed to advancing efforts to combat human trafficking and its associated harms. Individuals who may be at risk of human trafficking in Canada include Indigenous women and girls, migrants and new immigrants, at-risk youth, LGBTQ2+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, 2-spirit and other identities) persons, persons with disabilities, at-risk youth, and those who are socially or economically disadvantaged. Canada has taken a number of measures to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons. In 2019, legislative

amendments were made to Canada's *Criminal Code*, which help to facilitate the proof of human trafficking offences and the seizing of related proceeds of crime. These reforms provide law enforcement actors with additional legislative tools to investigate and prosecute this crime. Human trafficking offences found in the Canadian *Criminal Code* also apply to offences committed outside of Canada; these provisions can therefore be used in Canada to prosecute those who have committed human trafficking offences abroad. Canada continues to provide foreign nationals who have become victims of human trafficking with protections, including by means of a special temporary resident permit. In 2019, Canada issued over 200 temporary resident permits to victims of trafficking in persons (VTIP TRP). A foreign national who receives a VTIP TRP also becomes eligible for health care under the Interim Federal Health program. This health coverage includes basic services (e.g. physician, hospital), supplemental services (e.g. psychology, counselling) and prescription drugs. A TRP issued for 180 days provides eligibility for an open work permit, allowing the holder to obtain employment in Canada. A subsequent TRP can also be issued, at an officer's discretion, depending on individual circumstances.

In 2019, recognizing the need to address critical gaps in Canada's response to this crime, Canada launched its new [National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking \(National Strategy\)](#), which was developed through an evidence-based approach, including national and international consultations and a GBA+ analysis. The National Strategy is a horizontal, whole-of-government initiative that brings together all government efforts under five pillars: empowerment, prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships. Under the National Strategy, Canada intends to enhance its data collection and research to help better understand the nature, prevalence and scope of human trafficking, close data gaps, and help inform policy and programs that help victims and survivors; launch a new public awareness campaign as well as develop targeted tools for key sectors that raise awareness of human trafficking, indicators, and reporting procedures; and, strengthen its capacity to identify and protect foreign national victims of human trafficking and assess the impacts of human trafficking and other gender-based violence throughout the immigration enforcement continuum, among other new initiatives.

At the international level, Canada is implementing an enhanced engagement approach to better leverage multilateral and bilateral partnerships in countering this crime. As part of this enhanced approach, Canada has joined Alliance 8.7, will join the [United Nations' Blue Heart Campaign](#) (awareness-raising), and will also seek full membership in the [Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime](#). Canada also supports anti-TIP efforts abroad through an Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP), a program established in 2009 to enhance the capacity of beneficiary states and government entities to prevent and respond to threats posed by transnational criminal activity, primarily through the provision of training, equipment, and technical assistance to other states. Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy guides gender considerations in TIP projects, including with respect to the high rates of gender and sexual-based violence associated with TIP. Projects supported by ACCBP have assisted states in developing comprehensive approaches to help end gender and sexual-based violence and to address the social norms and gender inequalities that create the enabling conditions for TIP. Since 2015, the ACCBP has committed over \$13.5M towards programs that work to combat TIP, and is currently funding four TIP-related projects valued at a total of over \$8.4M. For example, one project in Honduras (\$2.5M over 3 years until

2022) aims to build the technical capacities of key actors involved in the prosecution, protection and prevention of TIP, particularly with women and girls. The project will integrate a permanent, mandatory and specialized training course into the curricula of various government institutions.

Responding to the needs of Venezuelan migrants and refugees (Objectives 7, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23): Addressing the Venezuela crisis and its migratory impacts is a key priority for Canada. Strengthening collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in the context of large cross-border movements is a key area of the GCM which could use more attention and support. Canada is working to this end with regional partners to address the needs emerging from the exodus of Venezuelan migrants and refugees through a range of humanitarian and development projects. For instance, Canada is:

- Contributing to the Venezuela Regional Refugee and Migrant Response by providing flexible, unearmarked humanitarian assistance to IOM and UNHCR to respond to the needs of refugees and migrants. This flexible, regional-level funding has gone towards direct emergency assistance, access to basic services, water, sanitation and hygiene, health assistance, and protection support to support those affected by the Venezuela crisis.
- Providing sexual and reproductive health assistance and promotion for migrants from Venezuela and host communities in Colombia and Ecuador, through IOM. Canada is also reducing gender-based violence and supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights for migrant women in Colombia's border city of Cúcuta through Ladysmith.
- Helping to protect and provide equal opportunities for Venezuelan children on the move in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru by working with UNICEF to strengthen mechanisms and protocols to provide special attention to migrant girls, boys and adolescents at regional, national and local levels.
- Creating safe spaces for girls and improving education in the Colombian-Venezuelan border region to help address barriers to education faced by Venezuelan migrants and Colombian internally displaced people, through Save the Children Canada.
- Continuing to engage the World Bank's Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCF) after having sponsored Colombia and Ecuador as members to bring the GCF mechanism to South America. The GCF helps middle-income countries such as Colombia and Ecuador absorb migrants by accessing affordable (concessional) loans, leading to over \$1B in funding to both countries.
- Providing economic integration support to Venezuelan migrant women and other vulnerable populations in Colombia and changing traditional attitudes and behaviors about women and youth in the workplace through programming with CUSO International.
- Supporting the removal of barriers for Venezuelan asylum seekers in Peru to access education, through a partnership with World University Service of Canada (WUSC).
- Promoting regional coordination mechanisms between Colombia, Ecuador and Peru regarding Venezuelan flows through IOM, as well as encouraging the sharing of best practices, including through bilateral dialogue with Brazil.

- Accompanying the Quito Process initiative, which promotes a coordinated and harmonized approach among countries receiving Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Leading the follow-up efforts of the *International Donors Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees* held on May 26, 2020 (co-convened by Canada, and chaired by the EU and Spain), which sensitized the international community to the urgency of the Venezuelan crisis, mobilized \$3.962 billion to help the displaced population, and promoted coordination among key actors.

Supporting LGBTI migrants from Venezuela in Ecuador (Objectives 7, 16): With the crisis in Venezuela, Ecuador has hosted an increasing number of Venezuelan migrants. Within this vulnerable community, LGBTI migrants experience intersecting oppressions based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) and migrant status. As a result, they often lack safe and inclusive spaces, and many face urgent needs for health care and medication. Through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), the Canadian government has partnered with a local CSO and supported the first gathering place and reference center for LGBTI migrants to access services and help link them with local support networks. Such programming makes progress towards several of the GCM’s guiding principles, including being people-centered and gender-responsive via a whole-of-society approach to meet the needs of a group of migrants often facing discrimination.

Capacity building to improve border management (Objectives 11, 12, 23):

Canada, through the Canada Border Services Agency, has a long history of providing capacity building assistance to improve border management. In 2018 and 2019, Canada partnered with the IOM to provide training to passport and border officials from 18 countries, including Canada, to improve border management and reduce irregular migration in the Americas. The training provided officials with best practices and techniques to improve travel document verification, identify fraudulent documents and imposters, and understand e-passport security features. Findings from a survey following the training confirmed that the initiative increased the awareness and knowledge of the participants on the key topic areas, as well as helped to build and/or strengthen regional relationships and networks. Due to COVID-19, the projects are on hold until travel resumption are put in place and experts can travel safely, yet dialogue continues via virtual meetings in the interim.

Canada has increased its engagement with numerous countries to facilitate safe and dignified returns through the creation of a temporary program to work with targeted countries on their migration capacity building priorities in this area. The program was designed to improve broader migration cooperation with host governments and build key institutional contacts with higher-level immigration and border officials. This, in turn, has improved cooperation between officials at multiple levels. The program also leverages these relationships to facilitate the issuance of travel documents by host communities. Moreover, the program funds sustainable reintegration activities including taking into account the needs of host/return communities. As is the case with all Government of Canada programs and policies, it was designed to include gender

considerations, including the fact that women and girls experience migration differently, and will be evaluated accordingly.

Through ACCBP, Canada also manages the Human Smuggling Envelope (HSE), which provides assistance to strengthen the capacity of source and transit states to combat migrant smuggling networks. ACCBP-funded projects have trained law enforcement and border security officials in investigative techniques, including the integration of gender considerations in combating organized crime. As an example, the ACCBP supports a project titled *Integrating Gender Considerations throughout Operations and Training delivered at the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC)*. Implemented by the UNODC, this project aims to support JCLEC senior leadership and the Government of Indonesia to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women by designing and implementing a gender mainstreaming policy in which gender considerations are integrated in all operations and substantive work of the institution. Since 2011, Canada has committed up to \$46.9M globally in such efforts, including eight active projects valued at over \$11.8M.

Many of these initiatives reflect priorities that Canada will continue to advance as a champion country of the GCM, such as advocating for gender-responsive migration and supporting integration and social cohesion in order to improve the lives of migrants and their communities.

4. Means of implementation (suggested 500 words)

- (a) Based on the challenges and trends highlighted, the review may discuss how means of implementation are mobilized, what difficulties this process faces, and what additional resources are needed to implement the GCM, including in terms of financing, capacity development and data needs, technology, and partnerships.**

Canada has the resources and capacity necessary to support implementation of the GCM. Since adoption, Canada has examined its domestic and international programs and policies against the framework of the GCM and will seek to verify that the GCM is accounted for when new policies or practices are considered. Canada also benefits from its close partnerships with CSOs, who domestically and internationally support implementation and Canada's well-managed migration system broadly.

As a champion of the GCM, Canada strongly values partnerships and information-sharing in support of further progress and implementation of the GCM. As Canada carves out its role as a champion, it is also identifying signature initiatives that will allow for us to support such exchanges of information and advance the GCM internationally.

In terms of international implementation, Canada is primarily employing the following means of implementation: exchange on best practices and lessons learned, through bilateral and multilateral engagements, promotion of the Compact and its principles and objectives, and capacity-building efforts.

For Canada, domestic and international implementation are linked. While domestic experiences influence the practices Canada highlights internationally, international engagement also provides an important mechanism for reflecting on ways to adapt and improve.

Exchanging on best practices

While Canada is cognizant that practices must often be adapted to local and national particularities, seizing opportunities to share lessons learned is a valuable way to advance GCM implementation. As part of its champion role, Canada is aiming to share its best practices to support GCM implementation. For instance, one priority for Canadian engagement is addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration, particularly those experienced by women and girls. Projects such as the Gender Hub, detailed above, assist in this effort by providing concrete resources and guidance in support of gender-responsive migration policies. When exchanging on best practices with key international partners, Canada is committed to learning from them in order to adapt and improve the Government of Canada's own policies and programs.

Promoting and advancing the Compact's principles and objectives in international forums

Canada's international promotion of the Compact's objectives and principles has included advancing work to shape the public narrative on migration by promoting a balanced dialogue. Canada is committed to deepening its engagement with others on migration narratives through its role as Co-Chair of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) ad-hoc Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration. On the topic of migration narratives in particular, there is a window of opportunity in the current environment to shift the narrative in a positive direction by showcasing how migration can help communities to "build back better" from COVID-19. Canada also recognizes that there is an ongoing need to counter xenophobia and anti-migrant discourse.

Providing capacity-building

Finally, Canada provides capacity-building to support other states in achieving their GCM-related objectives. Capacity-building initiatives such as those described previously seek to contribute to the strengthening of host and transit countries' border management practices by offering concrete tools and techniques. Cooperation for safe and dignified returns is a top priority for Canadian capacity-building initiatives. More generally, Canada supports international engagement through its migration capacity building grants program, the only Canadian migration-related funding program to strengthen migration systems and refugee protection; facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration; and promote open, evidence-based discourse on migration issues.

5. Next steps (*suggested 500 words*)

- (a) **Based on the outcomes of the review, the Member State could outline what steps are planned to enhance the implementation of the GCM.**
- (b) **It could be indicated how the results of reviews will be disseminated and how the Member State will prepare for the first IMRF.**

Canada is committed to continuing to uphold the objectives of the GCM in the spirit of supporting safe, orderly, and regular migration. Canada will continue to champion the objectives of the GCM domestically, regionally and internationally, and will seek to lead in various fora by advocating for the GCM and by providing support for Canada's prioritized areas of engagement. Canada will seek to leverage its position as a champion country to promote balanced narratives on migration, gender-responsive migration policies, integration and cohesion, and international cooperation for returns and reintegration.

Canada will, moreover, seek to reinforce its support for the GCM in the context of pandemic recovery. Canada is, for example organizing jointly with Costa Rica and the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) a workshop on Migration Health in the Americas, expected to take place in 2021 with participation from North, Central and South America and Caribbean states, and a number of international organizations (IOM, UNHCR, Pan American Health Organization - PAHO, etc.). The workshop will provide a valuable exchange of knowledge and experiences on migration health, including best practices and lessons learned from mass cross-border movements (Venezuelan emigration), and international outbreaks of infectious disease – with a particular focus on the COVID-19 pandemic. This is expected to assist all countries in informing their migration health policies and programs, and thus contribute to safe migration as envisioned by the GCM.

Canada understands the importance of the review process in ensuring continuity, relevance, and continued progress when it comes to implementation of the GCM. As a champion country, Canada will participate in other regional and global review mechanisms that underscore the importance of the GCM.

Canada will continue to reflect on the GCM in the Canadian context to ensure its relevance with changing circumstances, such as the ongoing pandemic. Canada has already adjusted and implemented policies and programming in recognition of the potential and actual effects of COVID-19 on migrants. Canada's Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), for workers who must stop working due to COVID-19, was available to foreign workers and international students, while provinces and territories likewise have ensured testing and treatment are available regardless of immigration status. In recognition of how the pandemic has exacerbated vulnerabilities for women, children and LGBTQ2 newcomers experiencing gender-based violence moreover, the Government of Canada announced \$40 million for shelters for women, including newcomers, and an additional \$4 million to support sexual assault centres across the country.

Canada engaged a number of relevant stakeholders throughout the development of the GCM and is committed to deepening its efforts to engage relevant stakeholders going forward. As Canada continues to carve out its role as a champion country of the GCM, it plans to jointly engage targeted Canadian experts in domestic and international migration, including academics and representatives of Canadian civil society, through focused discussions. Canada will similarly

conduct a Government-of-Canada wide exercise in order to ensure a whole-of-government approach to continued implementation and international promotion. In the longer-term, Canada plans to engage more broadly in a whole-of-society and whole-of government manner on GCM implementation in the lead up to the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).