

*Check against delivery*

**High-Level Launch of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

**Remarks by the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration**

**1 December 2020 (virtual). 19.30h GVA time**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to be with you for this launch of the first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

I am grateful to the Secretary-General for his leadership on this issue.

Two years after Marrakech, this report:

- Showcases the progress we have made to date;
- Highlights challenges in implementation, both existing and new;
- Reminds governments to take strong ownership of commitments made; and
- Reiterates the Network's strong commitment to implement the Compact.

At the outset, it is worth recalling that the Global Compact did not start from zero.

All of the Compact's commitments, objectives and actions are rooted in established obligations and principles, underpinned by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed legal standards and frameworks.

The Compact brings together both existing and new commitments and presents a cooperative framework for action on international migration.

It is worth recalling that the Compact recognizes:

- The multi-faceted nature of migration: many aspects of our lives are increasingly shaped by migration, with virtually every country experiencing significant benefits;
- That migration has become part and parcel of the UN's global agenda; and



- Migration governance requires cooperation at all levels with all actors, within and between countries.

While recognizing the fundamental importance of the Compact's 360-degree vision, implementation cannot be based on a one-size-fits-all approach. Priorities will differ significantly between States -- a reality explicitly acknowledged in the Compact – and be an ongoing process.

Context, experience and resources are key.

Migration levels, drivers and impacts are determined by many circumstances, including the state of the economy, historic ties, demography, labour market needs, humanitarian considerations, and geography.

For example, the migration priorities for Small Island Developing States may well differ from countries with large diaspora populations. While there will be common concerns, there are likely many different needs.

The most important benchmark for success will be the Compact's relevance for the daily lives of migrants, their families and their communities.

As we have seen, the experiences and vulnerabilities of migrants can evolve and do so rapidly as graphically highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to these changing circumstances, migration governance should be continuously subject to domestic scrutiny, capable of adapting to new dynamics, needs and realities, and supported by flexible international cooperation.

Dear friends,

This report is a first steppingstone for the global review of the Compact, to be held during the first half of 2022.

With the Network's support, the first round of regional reviews of the Compact are just beginning.



The review of progress to apply the ten guiding principles and to implement the 23 objectives offers governments an opportunity to report on progress made, strengthen national policies and practices, and gain inspiration from other states as well as from migrants and other stakeholders.

Dear colleagues,

As the Secretary-General has pointed out, within two years of its adoption, the Compact has been severely tested.

While the pandemic has triggered sound migration decisions in some countries, there have been many cases where responses to the virus have led to the erosion of the rights and dignity of migrants. In some cases, this has even led to the loss of lives and livelihoods.

What is also clear is that the Compact has become – even in this short timeframe – a reference point for action on migration: often explicitly, sometimes implied.

This, perhaps, is the central message of the report: Member States have embraced the Compact and are working towards its implementation.

The Global Compact has become a beacon, a critical point of reference, guiding deliberations and inspiring actions.

Permit me to make three final observations:

First, this is your Compact. Its success will depend on you.

I am particularly gratified by the response to our call for Champions of the Compact. Now numbering 15 – from all regions – we look forward to expanding this group as momentum around the Compact gathers.

Recognition, too, must go to Member States, including those who have:

- Developed, or are developing, national implementation plans;
- Submitted, or are preparing, national reports to the regional reviews
- Contributed to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund; and
- Participated in the design of joint programmes.

The number of states engaged in driving forward the GCM is truly impressive.



Second, the diversity of actors is a critical feature of the Compact which recognizes our partners as central to its effective implementation.

It is my hope – and belief – that this recognition is more than rhetoric. We must continue to ensure that the diversity of expertise and voices, which are so essential to its implementation, is permitted to flourish.

And, finally, a word on the Network’s effort to provide system-wide support in GCM implementation.

The Network has put in place key elements: the establishment of the Fund; putting in place the foundations for the Global Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub; and working groups to develop tools and guidance to realise the objectives of the Compact – including but not exclusively in the context of COVID-19; and the establishment of national networks on migration integrated in over 40 UN Country Teams

These are just some examples of how the UN system has come together under the umbrella of the Network to deliver on the promise of more coordinated, coherent and system-wide action. In doing so, we are showing what the system can do as one.

In the coming months, with your support, we will continue to build on this.

The Network will be your steadfast partners on this journey:

- Through our growing number of regional and country networks;
- Through working with the Champions and others; and
- Through building up the Fund.

Thank you.