



The Dialogue with Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms for the preparation of the GCM Regional Review Conference in the Arab region

**Held on Virtual Platform – Kudo
Thursday, 28 January 2021 (11:00 – 13:00 Cairo Time)**

[The International Organization for Migration and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia \(ESCWA\), in cooperation with the members of the United Nations Regional Network for Migration, organized a dialogue with the inter-state consultation mechanisms \(ISCMs\) on 28 January 2021.](#)

[The purpose of the dialogue was to contribute to the preparation of the Regional Review conference of the Global Compact for Safe Migration](#)

[Welcoming Remarks](#)

Mrs. Carmela Godeau, Regional Director, Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa (MENA), International Organization for Migration (IOM): started her welcoming remarks by expressing appreciation to all esteemed participants of the Dialogue for the preparation of the Regional Review on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). She outlined the important role of the Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms (ISCMs) as a Regional Consultative Process, addressing a wide range of issues, including protection of migrants' rights, migration and development, labour migration, migration and health, counter migrant smuggling, counter human trafficking, and the issue of mixed migration, which reflects a growing recognition from governments that migration significantly affects and is affected by other major public policy areas.

She further highlighted the ISCMs' cross-regional focus with inter-regional memberships to address migration issues throughout the entire migration cycle and through a route-based approach, which is a critical element for the success of coordinated and enhanced migration governance. She also stressed that ISCMs have contributed to shaping national migration policy and to converging policy approaches at the regional level by encouraging migration-related ministries and agencies for better coordination. Because of these values and importance, she went on to note that the Regional Consultative Processes are specifically referred to in the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) Resolution, and the Modalities Resolution of the International Migration Review Forums as valid existing mechanisms to contribute to the GCM, and for facilitating migration in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She said that in spite of the unprecedented global pandemic crisis, countries are striving to achieve their commitment to no leave no one behind. The GCM objectives, underlining the pandemic crisis, should open an opportunity to advocate for the adoption of people centered, rights-based, gender-sensitive and child responsive approach.

In closing, she noted that the Regional Review conference in the Arab region will be held on 24-25 February and this preparatory meeting will offer a platform whereby all participants can discuss relevant issues. She further highlighted that IOM has provided support to ISCMs, including technical expertise, policy guidance, research, capacity building and targeted project initiatives for many years. As Coordinator of the UN Migration Network, designated by Member States to assist in the

preparations and organization of the GCM Regional Reviews, and co-organizer of the Regional Review conference in the Arab Region in cooperation with the Members of the Regional Network on Migration, she emphasized that IOM is ready and looks forward to supporting ISCMs to fulfil the commitment to implement the Global Compact for Migration as well as to enhance migration governance.

Ms. Mehrinaz El-Awady, Director - Cluster Leader Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA):

extended her gratitude to all esteemed participants of the Dialogue. She added that the Dialogue is taking place at a critical time for the region that is witnessing a large wave of migrants and hosts over 30 million migrants, the majority of whom originate from Arab countries. Noting that the Arab region is characterized by complex migration patterns connecting various migration corridors across the region, she said that while some progress toward good migration governance has been made, unfortunately, there are still increasing trends of irregular migration; ISCM dialogues are a crucial reminder that working together is not just an option, but a necessity and an opportunity to align on the best practices and to accelerate the implementation of the GCM and its objectives in the Arab region. In this respect, she spoke of ESCWA's support to Arab States in organizing the GCM Regional Review and in developing voluntary national reports and facilitating communication channels among multiple stakeholders to further facilitate peer-learning and address all challenges. She reiterated how these year-long efforts will culminate in the Regional Conference scheduled on 24 – 25 February, seeking to reach and engage with all relevant stakeholders, using this opportunity to extend the invitation to all esteemed participants. In her closing remarks, Ms. El-Awady described the ISCMs Dialogue agenda as rich albeit short, and as a strategic platform for the exchange of experiences relative to consultation mechanisms, especially that the second session focuses on expanding on the contributions of multi-stakeholders in the consultative processes. Ms. El-Awady extended special gratitude to IOM colleagues, Mrs. Carmela Godeau, on top of that list, for the fruitful and successful partnership.

She reiterated that ESCWA and its partners are ready to help countries in the region to formulate coherent migration policies. Lastly, she outlined the agenda for today's Dialogue, which includes 1) providing an overview of the recent developments on migration governance and the regional review process, 2) exchanging experiences and stocktaking on ISCMs' activities in support of the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM, and 3) discussing on means to optimize ISCMs' engagement with the regional review.

Moderator (Kristina Galstyan, International Partnerships Division, IOM, before the beginning of the agenda, introduced the background and purpose of the consultative Dialogue. (please see [a guidance note](#) developed by IOM)

Scene Setting

- This session serves to set the scene for the discussion by presenting a brief overview of the GCM Follow-up and Review in the Arab region.

Ms. Sara Salman, Regional Advisor on Population Affairs, ESCWA: provided a brief overview on the GCM's 10 guiding principles and 23 objectives and explained the implementation, review and follow-up processes. First, the 10 guiding principles (people-centered, whole of society, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive) underline a common understanding of migration and shared responsibility to make migration work for all. Second, the 23 objectives, such as data for evidence-based policies, minimize adverse drivers of migration and provide migrants with information offer a roadmap for achieving safe, orderly and regular migration. She highlighted the whole-of-society approach which is stipulated in 21 out of 23 objectives in order to achieve them, particularly regarding data collection, partnership building, supporting implementation, capacity

building and policy development. In this respect, she further stressed that regional consultative processes play an important role in fostering peer learning, exchange of experiences and good practices, and building partnerships. Lastly, she noted the urgent policy implementations of the GCM in the region, including developing and reforming migration governance frameworks (currently the policy is fragmented and the GCM could facilitate reforming); protecting and enabling vulnerable migrants (COVID-19 revealed further the vulnerability of migrants); minimizing the adverse drivers of migration (in the region there are several sources of instability, and huge numbers of irregular migration, and as such addressing adverse drivers is very important); ensuring a whole-of-society approach to migration governance; and improving data collection (across the region, countries experience difficulties in migration data collection, and without disaggregated data country's capacity to form evidence-based policy is weakened).

Ms. Kristina MEJO, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer and Deputy Regional Director, Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa (MENA), IOM: informed the participants of the GCM follow-up and review processes in the region, which covers 22 member states of the League of Arab States (LAS), and are assisted by IOM, LAS and ESCWA, in close coordination with the regional and national UN Migration Network members. She noted that while the timeframe of regional reviews varies from region to region, for the Arab region, it will be held on 24-25 February 2021 (All the relevant documents are available on the [UN Network Website Arab landing page](#)). She provided a brief overview of the regional follow-up and review process composed of several components to ensure the widest and most effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including: two online capacity building workshops to support Member States to develop their voluntary GCM review reports in June and August 2020; a Consultation with Member States on the modalities of the Regional Review Conference of the GCM in the Arab Region in October 2020; two multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions in October and November 2020. She added that additional dialogue sessions will be organized with specific stakeholder groups as part of the review process, which will culminate in the organization of the Regional Review Conference in the first quarter of 2021, and the first regional review report is planned for April 2021 following the regional review conference. Finally, she gave an update on national and regional review coordination processes in the region, and underlined that there are eight national UN Networks on Migration in the region established in Bahrain, Djibouti, Jordan, KSA, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, and UAE, and as of today, 12 countries have submitted voluntary GCM review report (Individual GCM Voluntary Review Report can be submitted to gcmrrarabstates@iom.int to be posted onto the UN Network on Migration website for the Arab States).

Ms. Ana Belen Anguita Arjona, Senior Regional Protection Officer and Mixed Movements Advisor, UNHCR reiterated the critical role of the ISCMs in GCM implementation, and welcomed the review process, which would help to take stock and help migrants across the region. She highlighted the importance of reaching out to different groups, like refugees in this process of GCM implementation, noting that there is a complementarity between GCM and the Global Compact on Refugees and greater cooperation of the two global compacts is required to achieve their commitments. She further emphasized the importance of engaging different stakeholders in the regional review process, including national civil society organizations, migrants and communities with different background, age, gender, disability.

[Open Discussion: Promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in the GCM regional review in the Arab region](#)

Before opening up the discussion, the moderator (Nicoletta Giordano, International Partnership Division, IOM), provided information on ways in which the ISCMs could contribute to the GCM review, which include: directly by the ISCM, indirectly through respective member state or by an international governmental organization with which the given ISCM has a formal association, alternatively, also in cooperation with partners. In terms of types of contribution, she noted that submissions as written inputs based on the indicative outline or through individual ISCM event via oral statement or side events are possible; alternatively, joint contributions with partners could be made. (For further information, [see here](#))

The discussion session was facilitated with the following guiding questions:

- Update on the status of implementation of regional plans and strategies on migration, per relevant GCM objective;
- 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 regional approaches, strategies and implementation plans;
- Examples of promising practices and lessons learned that might 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

Ms. Enas El Fergany, Director of Refugees, Expatriates, and Migration Affairs Department, The League of Arab States, Secretariat of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs: grateful for the opportunity for this consultation, mentioned that the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) was founded in 2014 and since its inception, has been tackling a wide range of issues related to migration in the region by strengthening cooperation between member states and working towards a more coherent migration policy. Noting that the region has millions of migrants and the situation in the region is not very stable with many refugees and irregular migrants, she stressed this platform for Dialogue is ever more critical to discuss among Arab states on migration policy. She noted that before the adoption of the GCM in 2018, the ARCP held a meeting where an outcome document was adopted and presented at the regional consultation on international migration in the Arab region in preparation for the GCM held in 2017. It also coordinated with New York LAS Mission to guarantee that the Arab Group is aware of the position of the Arab states on GCM. Further, she noted after the adoption of GCM, and the ARCP ensured all member states are aware of the recent developments. She stressed ARCP's role in encouraging member states to participate in the voluntary review process, particularly emphasizing 10 objectives out of the 23 GCM objectives, and 12 countries have submitted the voluntary review report as of now. In terms of urgent needs, the member states require technical and financial support and capacity building in various fields, the most important of which is data collection and use of accurate and disaggregated data for evidence-based policies, providing accurate and timely information for all stages of migration, saving lives and coordinating with regard to missing migrants. Hoping that the ARCP will be a platform for continuing Dialogue, exchanging experiences, peer learning, unifying visions and coordinating policies in the field of migration, as well as working to ensure the participation of Arab member states in all activities related to the GCM leading up to the IMRF. The ARCP also intends to develop a regional strategy around one of the priorities of the Arab region to propose to the partners, including the United Nations Migration Network and continue to

cooperate with international organizations to provide all the support that the Arab member states will need in the coming period.

Mr. Rolliansyah Soemirat, Director of International Security and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia, Co-chair of the Bali Process: introduced the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process), a forum for policy dialogue, information sharing and practical cooperation established in 2002 to raise regional awareness of the consequences of people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime to help the region address these challenges. Mr. Soemirat spoke about the Indonesian experience in his capacity as an Indonesian representative. Indonesia has adopted a whole-of-society approach and been striving to ensure all migration processes are safe and orderly. Noting that the provided 23 GCM objectives are too wide and too many, he stressed the necessity to set priorities for a country in accordance with country context with clear road map to move forward. As such, Indonesia focused on objectives 3, 5, 6, and 18 as well as objective 1 on migration data which is a critical challenge. Furthermore, he added that concerted efforts were made for the inclusion of migrants into a national welfare system in line with national law. Additionally, he also noted that the Indonesian government places a great emphasis on strengthening coordination with various stakeholders, outreach programs at central and local level, integrating SDG target 10.7 into the GCM implementation, and continuing its effort in developing a national action plan for GCM by adopting a whole of society approach. Acknowledging the challenges posed by COVID-19, he, however, highlighted that the GCM provides a guideline for the country to put safety during the pandemic time.

Mr. Joost Klarenbeek, Special Envoy for Migration, European Union, Khartoum Process: introduced the Khartoum Process, which is a platform for political cooperation amongst the countries along the migration route between the Horn of Africa and Europe. He noted that due to the impact of COVID-19, diplomacy on migration activities was largely hampered, even though sessions on border migration and voluntary return took place. The participating States of the Process agreed that in the coming month, dialogues will focus on human trafficking issue as a consequence of the pandemic with aspects of prevention, protection and prosecution. As such, he summarized that most work of the Process are currently related to COVID-19 and trafficking and also reiterated that data collection on migration is key.

Mr. Zain Alabdeen Ibrahim, L.General, DG passports and civil registry, EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process), provided an overview of the challenges the country is facing with many migrants and refugees from South Sudan and West African countries, which has been compounded with a significant influx of displaced populations from Ethiopia due to the recent conflict in Tigray region. He emphasized an urgent need for concerted efforts of the international community. Noting that Sudan upholds GCM objectives and principles, he briefed that the Government of Sudan held several meetings to explain the GCM processes to all relevant governmental members, adding while previously it used to be only the Ministry of Interior involved in the process. Currently several Ministries are involved in the process including the Ministry of Labor. He further expressed the country's interest in the Khartoum Process and following up with what has been discussed in the meetings.

Mr. Grant Follett, Director of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, Government of Australia, Co-chair of the Bali Process: intervened in the capacity of co-chair of the Bali Process, offered some observation with respect to the impact of COVID-19. He noted that the inability to meet in person is a big challenge. He noted that the Bali Process held the first virtual meeting in October last year to

discuss the impact of COVID-19, which provided some innovative approach in bringing more stakeholders to have a richer discussion.

Open discussion: Means to ensure optimal engagement of the ISCMs in the regional review

The second open discussion session was moderated by Ms. Sara Salman, Regional Advisor on Population Affairs, UN ESCWA. Providing a tentative agenda and structure of the coming Regional Review Conference to be held in February, the moderator facilitated discussion with the following guiding questions: 1) What are the most suitable means to ensure the optimal engagement of the ISCMs in the regional review conference? and 2) What inputs are envisioned to the regional review conference?

Mr. Joost Klarenbeek, Special Envoy for Migration, EU, Khartoum process: He acknowledged no consideration has been made yet but expressed interest in providing contribution to the Conference.

- The moderator welcomed the commitment of the EU delegation and further encouraged its contribution, stressing the added value of the contribution given migration in the Arab region has an inter-regional dimension.

Enas Fergany, Director of Refugees, Expatriates, and Migration Affairs Department, LAS, ARCP: Ms. Fergany confirmed the potential contribution of ARCP to the Conference by consolidating inputs from the member states of the region to prepare a written document to present during the Conference.

Mr. Rolliansyah Soemirat, Director of International Security and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bali Process, Indonesia Co-chair: Mr. Soemirat shared an experience from the Bali Process and underscored that when it comes to optimal engagement, it is important to bring every country regardless of the categorization (e.g. transit, origin, destination country) to have an open and candid discussion allowing a comfortable space for the participating countries to speak out. Through this engagement and cooperation in the Bali Process, he noted that countries concerted efforts have resulted in tangible outcomes, such as rescuing many victims of human-trafficking.

Ms. Aissata Kane, IOM, Senior Regional Advisor for Africa, on behalf of the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU HoAI): Ms. Kane delivered her remarks on behalf of the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU HoAI). She stressed inclusiveness and non-discriminatory participation with respect to gender, disability, and age should be the key for the Conference advocating for the inclusion of all segments of populations, including diaspora, academia, trade union, private sector as well as local governments. She said AU HoAI highlights the inter-regional Dialogue, with other regions and other processes bringing cross-regional perspectives, and also themes like irregular and labour migration should be included in its agenda. In early December 2020, she added that AU had consultative meetings with member states in the African continent, which created a space for stakeholders to address ways in which countries implement GCM. She highlighted a questionnaire has been developed for stakeholders to provide inputs to further improvement. She concluded her remarks by expressing expectations of positive engagement in the Regional Review Conference to be held in February.

Closing remarks and the way forward

Ms. Sara Salman, Regional Advisor on Population Affairs, ESCWA: Ms. Salman expressed an appreciation to all participants for the very valuable discussion.

Mr. Othman Belbeisi, Senior Regional Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa region, IOM: Mr. Belbeisi thanked all participants for the positive discussion and active support in the process, encouraged participants to pursue different possibilities to contribute to the regional review process in the Arab region. He highlighted the interactive discussion today, which marks an important milestone towards reinforcing the role and contributions of ISCMs regarding follow up and review of the GCM in the region and towards the International Migration Review Forum in 2022 by sharing experiences and exchanging thoughts. He concluded his remarks by hoping that each of these meetings deepens the shared commitment and understanding to move closer to the goal of making migration safe, orderly and regular for the benefit of all.

Annex: List of Participants:

- 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean
- African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU HoAI)
- Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)
- Bali Process
- European Union - Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process)
- Migration Dialogue for COMESA Region
- Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM)
- Pan-African Forum on Migration
- Rabat Process

	Name	Affiliation
1.	Hanane Bouarourou	5+5 Dialogue on Migration (Morocco as former Co-chair)
2.	Javier Puig	5+5 Dialogue on Migration (Spain – Co-chair)
3.	Enas El Fergany	ARCP (Egypt – Secretariat)
4.	Roy Soemirat	Bali Process
5.	Sarah Goodall	Bali Process
6.	Grant Follett	Bali Process (Australian Co-Chair)
7.	Reza Wiranataatmadja	Bali Process Indonesia
8.	Rike Octaviana	Bali Process Indonesia
9.	Veronica Rompis	Bali Process Indonesia
10.	Kudzi Nyagweta	COMESA
11.	Mutinta Chinganya	COMESA
12.	Zain Alabdeen Ibrahim	Khartoum Process (Sudan – Chair)
13.	Joost Klarenbeek	Khartoum Process (Netherlands – Chair)
14.	Mariah Mulenga	MIDCOM – Legal Officer
15.	Sepo Nalumino	MIDCOM (Australia - Co-Chair)
16.	Fiona Cook	Rabat Process - Secretariat
17.	Ahmed Bedairia	IOM Tunisia
18.	Aissata KANE	IOM Headquarters
19.	Alaeddine Dridi	IOM Tunisia
20.	Alexandre Schick	IOM Regional Office Cairo
21.	Ali Adam	IOM Sudan
22.	Amira Abouzeid	IOM Regional Office Cairo
23.	Anqi Zhang	IOM
24.	Asma Charfeddine OIM Maroc	IOM
25.	Carmela Godeau	IOM Regional Office Cairo
26.	Cecilia Cantos IOM	IOM Headquarters
27.	Christina Ostebo - IOM Jordan	IOM Jordan
28.	Ddavina Gounden	IOM Regional Office Cairo
29.	Eslam Mansour	IOM Regional Office Cairo
30.	Eslam Rizk	IOM Regional Office Cairo
31.	Hailey Kim	IOM Regional Office Cairo
32.	Hind Kinani	IOM Regional Office Cairo
33.	Houda Hossini	IOM Morocco
34.	Hussen Chanda	IOM Zambia
35.	Irene Pasini	IOM Libya
36.	Johanna Dorenborg	IOM Headquarters
37.	Joanna Liantsoa	IOM Headquarters
38.	Knowledge Mareyanadzo	IOM Zambia
39.	Kamila Shoukri	IOM Regional Office Cairo
40.	Kristiina Lilleorg	IOM Regional Office Cairo
41.	Kristina Galstyan	IOM Headquarters
42.	Kristina Mejo	IOM Regional Office Cairo
43.	Laila Tomeh	IOM Jordan
44.	lorenza rossi	IOM Regional Office Cairo
45.	Luise Schurian	IOM Headquarters
46.	Marija Nikolovska	IOM Regional Office Cairo

47.	Mayada Serageldin	IOM Kuwait
48.	Mazen Aboulhosn	IOM Kuwait
49.	Merja Kahkonen	IOM Iraq
50.	Merna Abdelazim	IOM Regional Office Cairo
51.	Mia Naakka	IOM Morocco UNV
52.	Misato Yuasa	IOM Regional Office Cairo
53.	Mohamed Refaat	IOM Syria
54.	Myriam Cherti	IOM Morocco
55.	Nicoletta Giordano	IOM Headquarters
56.	Niklas Emond IOM Jordan	IOM Jordan
57.	Noma Ncube	IOM Zambia
58.	Ola Hawari	IOM Qatar
59.	Othman Belbeisi	IOM Headquarters
60.	Phumza Manqindi	IOM Special Liaison Office in Addis Ababa
61.	Raffaele Bertini	IOM Regional Office Cairo
62.	Roula Hamati	IOM Qatar
63.	Samuel Juma	IOM Regional Office Cairo
64.	Sarah Carl	IOM Regional Office Dakar
65.	Ahmed Mohamed Sharif	KS Relief, IOM in KSA
66.	Sophie Nonnenmacher	IOM Regional Office Dakar
67.	Tala Khatib	IOM Lebanon
68.	Yva Alexandrova	IOM Bahrain
69.	Zuzana Jankechova	IOM Algeria
70.	Rosal Fischer	UNICEF
71.	Rawhi Afaghani	UNDP Regional Office
72.	Dina Tannir	UNESCWA
73.	Mehrinaz Elawady	UNESCWA
74.	Sara Salman	UNESCWA
75.	Belen Anguita	UNHCR Regional Office
76.	Berween Younes	UN Network on Migration Secretariat
77.	Shaden Khallaf	UNHCR Regional Office
78.	Harsheth Virk	UNODC Regional Office
79.	Tonia Rifaey	WHO Regional Office