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Report

Multi-stakeholder dialogues on the GCM Regional Review in the Arab Region 27 October and 3 November 2020

Summary

As part of the efforts leading to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) review in the Arab region, UN ESCWA and IOM organized virtual dialogues with relevant stakeholders in the Arab region over two sessions, held on 27 October and 3 November 2020. The dialogues were organized in cooperation with the members of the Regional UN Network on Migration in the Arab Region.

The dialogues aimed to provide stakeholders with an overview of the recent developments on migration governance at the global, regional, and national levels and highlighting the new structures in place for coordination on migration and the timeline towards the 2021 GCM Regional Review. They also encouraged peer learning and collaboration among different stakeholders regarding their engagements and contributions to the GCM implementation, follow-up, and review at regional and national levels. They furthermore discussed means for ensuring optimal engagement and inputs of relevant stakeholders to the GCM Regional follow-up and review process in the Arab region.

This report includes a summary of the presentations, the key discussion points and the recommendations raised by participants.

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Introduction

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018 calls for a whole-of-society approach in the implementation, follow-up, and review processes of the GCM. In this context, all relevant stakeholders at global, regional, and national levels are invited to actively contribute to national consultations and planning processes while building constructive and forward-looking engagements with the governments.

As part of the efforts leading to the implementation of the GCM Regional Review in the Arab region, and in line with the GCM guiding principles that call for a whole-of-society approach in the GCM follow-up and review, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN ESCWA organized dialogues with relevant stakeholders concerned with migration issues in the Arab region. The dialogues were held on 27 October and 3 November 2020, in cooperation with the members of the Regional UN Network on Migration in the Arab Region.

To ensure a thorough and inclusive regional review, the organizers invited over 500 participants representing different stakeholders, including civil society, migrant 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 the national, regional and global levels. The dialogues gained increased significance given the crucial role that stakeholders continue to play in supporting and assisting migrants in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and amidst severe movement restrictions. Consequently, there are mutual values added by exchanging diverse views among the stakeholders and the Regional UN Network to ensure an inclusive approach in the GCM regional review in the Arab region.

The dialogues focused on providing stakeholders with an overview of the recent developments on migration governance at the global, regional, and national levels and highlighting the new structures in place for coordination on migration in addition to the timeline towards the 2021 Regional follow-up and review. They also aimed to encourage peer learning and collaboration among different stakeholders regarding their engagements and contributions to the GCM implementation, follow-up, and reviews at regional and national levels. In addition, the dialogues discussed the means for ensuring optimal engagement and inputs of relevant stakeholders to the GCM Regional follow-up and review process in the Arab region.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the multi-stakeholder dialogues were held through the virtual platform, Kudo. To ensure the widest participation possible and to allocate enough time for meaningful discussions, the dialogues were organized over two separate sessions. Each dialogue comprised of an opening remarks session, an open discussion in addition to the closing remarks.

I. Dialogue Session I on 27 October 2020

A. Opening session

Ms. Mehrinaz Elawady, Cluster Leader of Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development in ESCWA thanked the stakeholders for their participation in the dialogue on the first regional review of the GCM. She emphasized that the review comes at a critical time for the Arab region, which continues to witness a remarkable increase in migratory movements and complex migration trends and patterns. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has posed additional challenges and threatens to undermine the gains and progress made by several countries in developing their migration governance systems. Ms. Elawady pointed that the GCM acknowledged the roles played by the different stakeholders and called for an inclusive consultative process in implementing the agreement as one of its ten guiding principles, hence the significance of the present dialogue in ensuring genuine participation of all relevant stakeholders in the regional review. She further encouraged participants to engage in the discussion in order to guide the co-organizers in developing a clear vision on how to review the GCM and follow up its implementation in the Arab region.

Mrs. Carmela Godeau, IOM Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, welcomed participants and stated that although the GCM is a state-led process, it equally requires the efforts and inputs through whole-of-government and whole-of-society inclusive approaches. She underscored that the adoption of a whole-of-society approach gains even more significance in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, whereas stakeholders' assistance to those who are most in need is increasingly being acknowledged and are effectively contributing to the achievement of the GCM objectives. In addition, stakeholders provide a wide range of experiences reflecting the perspectives of migrants on the ground. Mrs. Godeau added that the GCM recognizes the role of migrant communities and promotes broad consultations and multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration at national and regional levels. She concluded by inviting participants to share their views to ensure that their contributions are included in all phases of the GCM implementation, review and follow up and participate in the achievement of the objectives of the GCM in the Arab region.

B. Session 1: Scene Setting

The first session of the dialogue focused on setting the scene for the discussion by presenting a brief overview of the GCM principles, objectives, and follow-up and review in the region.

Ms. Sara Salman, Regional Adviser on Population in ESCWA initiated the session by providing a snapshot of the GCM 10 guiding principles and 23 objectives. She noted that concerted efforts are required at the global, regional, national and local levels for the effective implementation of the GCM, including a coherent United Nations system. She noted that the follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the GCM are carried out through regional and international review processes, using an inclusive approach that ensures the participation of all relevant stakeholders. In this context, she reminded participants of the three milestones implemented at the regional level within the framework of the preparations for adopting the GCM and review its implementation. These include the Regional Consultation on International Migration in 2017, which involved Civil Society

Organizations (CSOs), the Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2019, culminating with the Regional Review Conference in 2021.

Ms. Misato Yuasa, Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, IOM Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa gave a presentation on the GCM follow-up and review process at the national, regional, and global levels. She noted that the UN Secretary-General established a United Nations Network on Migration to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support for the implementation of the GCM. In addition, the IOM representative briefed the participants on the establishment of a Regional UN Network on Migration to ensure effective, timely, and coordinated support to the implementation, follow-up, and review of the GCM. She informed that there are currently seven National United Nations Networks on Migration in the Arab region, namely, in Bahrain, Djibouti, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, making an impressive progress on UN coordination, and providing support to member states and assistance to migrants. She added that within the context of the regional review process, nine Arab States submitted their voluntary GCM review reports including Bahrain, Comoros, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, and Tunisia. She announced that those reports are available on the UN Network on Migration website landing page for the Arab region¹. She noted that many governments conducted their review through a whole-of-government process whereas some countries are engaging or planning to engage a range of stakeholders in national consultations.

Ms. Yuasa also explained the review process at the regional and the global levels. At the global level, the GCM implementation will be reviewed at the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) every four years, beginning of 2022. Regional reviews will be organized in 2021 to inform each edition of the IMRF. She stated that following the Regional Conference on the GCM and the Capacity-building Workshop on Migration Governance held in 2019, two Capacity Building Workshops to prepare Member States in June and August 2020, and one Member States Consultation in October 2020 were organized as preparatory events. Ms. Yuasa concluded by charting the progress made in the preparation of the first review in the Arab region and encouraged participants to elevate their engagement and check the upcoming events on the UN Network on Migration website.

Ms. Monami Maulik, Civil Society Liaison Officer, at the Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration took the floor to discuss the meaning of the whole-of-society approach in the review processes. She informed that the UN Network on Migration is working cohesively to ensure that there is a consistency of approach across regions. It has released an internal guidance note on how the various regional review processes can incorporate a meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders clearly identified by the GCM, including migrants, diaspora, local authorities, local communities, academia, private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the media, and other relevant stakeholders as stated in paragraph 44 of GCM resolution and further outlined in the modalities resolution on the organization of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). The guidance note also discusses the engagement sought with stakeholders, which should be an ongoing process to deepen and further relationships of stakeholders with the Regional United Nations Networks on Migration.

Ms. Maulik explained that the guidance note promotes four principles, namely transparency of the process, inclusivity, diversity, and meaningful participation, and recommends holding

¹ [Arab States | United Nations Network on Migration](#)

multi-stakeholders' consultations prior to each region's review meeting. She highlighted the inclusion of outcomes from any stakeholder sectors' self-organized processes on the GCM as part of the multi-stakeholder consultations. She informed participants that if stakeholders/organizations are interested in posting reports or submissions, they could do so on the landing pages of the UN Network on Migration/regional reviews (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/arab-states>) by submitting it to GCM Regional Review Arab States <gcmrrarabstates@iom.int>, including after the regional review meetings and to build up a repository or analysis of stakeholders' reflections on GCM implementation leading to the IMRF.

C. Session 2: Open Discussion

Promoting a whole-of-society approach in the voluntary GCM review in the Arab region at the national level

The second session offered a platform for participants representing the different stakeholders, specified in para 44 of the GCM,² to discuss the means to ensure a whole-of-society approach to the regional review at the national level. The session was moderated by Dr. Amira Abdelrahman Ahmed Mohamed, Assistant Professor at the American University in Cairo.

The following guiding questions set the framework for the discussion:

- How have the different stakeholders engaged in the voluntary GCM follow-up and review process at the national level?
- How have they participated/contributed to elaborating the National Action Plans?
- What are the main challenges and opportunities observed for the GCM follow-up and review at the national level?
- What are some good practices and lessons learned from the national level engagement?

In the open discussion, the participants raised the following points:

A participant from a CSO addressed that civil society has been active in participating in the events leading to the adoption of the GCM and in various regional and international related meetings afterwards, yet governments are still reluctant to engage with civil society stakeholders at the national level. She called the United Nations through its regional and national presence, including IOM, to urge governments to provide civil society with a role in addressing migration issues. She also requested the United Nations to build the capacities of civil society organizations on migration issues and enable them to provide feedback, participate in the development of policies, and prepare relevant reports. A participant from a Worker's Rights Organization noted that in the period leading to the adoption of the GCM,

² Stakeholders include: migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders.

the regional consultations were well-coordinated and upheld, but the national consultation processes were weak or absent. The same pattern is observed in the follow-up and review stage, whereby she reported a lack of access to the information on the review process conducted by governments. She called for the establishment of a common platform or dialogue that enables all stakeholders from the government and non-governmental organizations to engage in consultations. She also highlighted that coordination and cooperation between civil society and government constituencies' gained more urgency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated the existing challenges faced by migrants, particularly the sponsorship system, and affected not only workers and employers, but also led to a crisis in both sending and receiving countries. She also raised the lack of involvement of migrant workers in workers' associations and syndicates as an issue and flagged that many Arab countries lag behind when it comes to endorsing freedom of association and collective bargaining.

A representative from Tamkeen For Legal Aid And Human Rights, Jordan noted that Arab governments, in general, have not dealt meaningfully with the GCM implementation process in her view and that their commitment should prevail even if it is a non-binding one. She emphasized that all stakeholders should have a platform for dialogue. Furthermore, she added that Government bodies didn't have enough knowledge on the GCM and that further guidance was needed. She recommended reassessing the engagement of stakeholders with governments and developing practical plans and notes to guide them in the GCM review process.

A representative from Public Aid Organization, Iraq emphasized the need for genuine participation of stakeholders. He recalled a case about workers in extraction industries that can be used as good practice for meaningful representation of the voices of migrant workers. The case is illustrated by the formation of a multi-stakeholders' body representing the government, the private sector, and the civil society. He called upon the creation of similar mechanisms to ensure genuine participation in the GCM review as opposed to a nominal one. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies identified migration as one of the five main challenges and work priorities of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The work of the Societies in including migrants and displaced populations in response activities was highlighted as well as plans for improving work on migration and partnerships with other stakeholders in the MENA region.

A representative from National Human Rights Commission, Libya underscored the importance of the GCM in establishing a framework for cooperation among all relevant stakeholders in countries of origin, transit, and destination, to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration. This cooperation should aim among others to uphold efforts in combatting human trafficking, protecting the migrants, and end all forms of discrimination against them. In addition, the cooperation framework should target building national capacities in the formulation of policies and laws on migration. He also highlighted the role of civil society in addressing the dire situation of migrants inside and outside detention centers in Libya and emphasized the importance of a data tracking system to serve migrants.

A representative from the Tunisian General Labour Union noted that most of the cooperation between the civil society and governments on migration takes place through projects that do not have a sustainability plan. She emphasized there is a need to consolidate efforts in that regard.

A representative from Adwaa Rights for Democracy and Human, Algeria highlighted that North Africa is one of the main migratory routes to Europe which poses challenges to civil society organizations concerned with helping the large influx of migrants. He asked about the availability of a guiding template with clear criteria that can be used by governments to engage with relevant stakeholders in the Arab region. He also noted that several NGOs lack the capacity to prepare reports on the regional review process and requested a clear methodology for engaging stakeholders in the review at the local level in order to promote networking on different issues.

In responding to the last comment, Ms. Misato Yuasa (IOM) clarified that there are two Indicative Outlines prepared by the United Nations Network on Migration Secretariat. She noted that one is for Member States and the other is for stakeholders which is more simplified version than the one for Member States. Both are available on the United Nations Network on Migration's website under the GCM follow-up and review tab under the page called "Supporting Material on Regional Reviews".

D. Closing remarks

Ms. Sara Salman (ESCWA) wrapped up the discussions of the dialogue. She noted that one of the main points raised was the need for a dialogue platform among the different stakeholders, during both the implementation and review processes. She also mentioned that these venues will be provided regularly in the form of conferences and meetings on migration issues. She thanked the participants for their time and active engagement. She reminded participants the second session will focus on how to ensure optimal engagement in the regional review process and the best ways to ensure the participation required.

Ms. Kristina Mejo, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer and Deputy Regional Director at the IOM Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa in Cairo thanked the participants for their rich inputs to the virtual dialogue. She reiterated that the whole-of-society approach ensures an inclusive, diversified, and transparent process and hoped this productive and forward-looking dialogue continues in the future. She reminded participants that the regional review is an important milestone, although part of an overall process of the GCM implementation. The review constitutes a critical opportunity to review the progress made in light of the pandemic and its impact on mobility and borders as well as to ensure that migrants have access to basic services. Ms. Mejo encouraged participants to make use of the Indicative Outline for stakeholders available online to engage in consultations at local and national levels and ensure that their voices are heard in the period leading towards the IMRF. She reiterated the role of National United Nations Networks on Migration that were established to provide system-wide support on issues related to migration.

Dr. Amira Abdelrahman Ahmed Mohamad ended the dialogue and encouraged the participants to join the upcoming session on 3 November 2020 to resume with these important discussions.

II. Dialogue session II on 3 November 2020

A. Opening Session

In her opening remarks on the second session of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, Ms. Sara Salman, Regional Adviser on Population Affairs, ESCWA welcomed the participants. She emphasized that in early 2020, the co-organizers of the dialogue tried to stress the importance of involving all stakeholders in the process of implementing, following-up and reviewing the progress in achieving the guiding principles and objectives of the GCM. In this same light, activities were organized, including two workshops on the guidance and support provided to Member States to prepare voluntary GCM review reports. Nine countries have prepared and submitted these reports so far. Several steps are ahead until the first quarter of 2021, when a conference will be held on the first Regional Review of the GCM in the Arab region, in order to provide the ground for engaging the largest possible number of stakeholders in the dialogues in preparation of this review. The format of the conference, such as number of sessions, topics of discussion, etc. is still under discussion of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration.

Ms. Monami Maulik, Civil Society Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration noted that the review process should be seen as an entry point for developing deeper engagement and active participation of stakeholders with the United Nations Network on Migration in the coming period. The national reviews started the process of assessing and gathering information on how the GCM is being implemented and on the challenges countries are facing in implementation; they will feed into the 2021 Regional Review, which will in turn feed into the global review process to be held in 2022, the International Migration Review Forum. She underlined that some of the guiding principles of the GCM, such as the whole-of-society and people-centered approaches will be assessed in the dialogue. She added that there is a focus on ensuring balanced participation of stakeholders taking into consideration different groups' needs (children, youth, women etc.) and that the principles on which the reviews should happen are transparency, inclusivity, diversity, and meaningful participation. Ms. Maulik closed her remarks by indicating that, essentially, the dialogues give opportunity to all stakeholders to express how they assess their engagement thus far in the preparation process for the Regional Review, whether their networks have engaged in self-prepared processes, and how the Regional Review can provide a better platform for them. She further noted that they can help see how they have partnered with governments to contribute to the implementation of the GCM, and what are the gaps identified and what role different stakeholders have in the preparation of voluntary GCM review reports by the governments.

Mr. Othman Belbeisi, Senior Regional Adviser for the Middle East and North Africa, IOM, highlighted the importance of promoting broad consultations, preserving the principle of the whole-of-society and engaging all actors. He added that stakeholder participation in the implementation as well as in all stages of the follow-up and review is crucial to ensure the objectives of the GCM in the Arab Region are achieved. He further highlighted the importance of having broad and inclusive national consultations to ensure constructive and forward-looking partnerships are put in place to promote a whole-of-government and society approaches.

B. Open Discussion

Ensuring a whole-of-society approach to the GCM regional review in the Arab region at the regional level

The Open Discussion session offered a platform to brainstorm on means and modalities to ensure the meaningful engagement and participation of stakeholders, particularly in the regional conference. The session was moderated by Dr. Amira Abdelrahman Ahmed Mohamed, Assistant Professor at the American University in Cairo.

The following guiding questions set the framework for the discussion:

- What are the best ways to ensure stakeholders are fully engaged in the virtual GCM regional follow-up and review conference?
- What are the best ways to ensure the widest representation and participation of stakeholders in the regional review?
- What inputs are envisioned for the regional review conference?

In the open discussion, the participants raised the following issues:

A representative from a CSO in Morocco stressed a few points for consideration: a) the importance of maintaining momentum as the GCM provides a real opportunity for promoting/advancing better migration governance; b) the importance of raising public awareness on the GCM, its principles, and objectives; c) the need to foster collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders to improve transparency; and d) the importance of mainstreaming efforts exerted for better delivery of results.

A representative from the United Cities and Local Governments underlined the necessity of giving due consideration to the implementation at the local level. The local level plays a very important role in the identification of issues and in contributing to solutions. Thus, the local authorities and communities should be included in the review process as stated in the GCM. United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) has launched a Global Task Force on Migration. UCLG supports the exchange of experience and could support the regional reviews, especially in the Arab region, since it has offices covering the Middle East and the North Africa regions.

A representative from the Solidarity Center, Jordan noted that she expected that the meeting will touch on reports that CSOs could participate in preparing and asked for clarification on whether only governments will be preparing the review reports, and if not, who are the entities involved. She also expressed concern about the difficulty in engaging with the governments, negatively impacting the issue of partnership in implementing the GCM. In her view, the governments are generally not responsive to actions and requests from CSOs, even when letters are addressed to them by CSOs. Finally, she stressed the importance of organizing a joint dialogue between governments and stakeholders to initiate communication and encourage proper engagement.

A representative from the International Organization of Employers, noted the importance of allowing different stakeholders to speak during the upcoming Regional Review

Conference and to give this issue due consideration in framing the conference roundtables. This would make the discussions more interesting and productive. He inquired about the type of inputs sought for the Conference. He noted that the IOE has prepared a report on North Africa last year and is in the process of putting together a report on the Middle East that will be ready in January 2021.

A representative from Kuwait Trade Union Federation noted that regular migration driven by poverty and the search for a decent life or because of conflicts and wars should be a right. He also stressed the need to spread values of tolerance and acceptance to combat fear of migrants and xenophobia.

A representative from the Workers House, Jordan stressed the need to raise the awareness of stakeholders on the importance of engagement and contribution to the GCM review. He noted that governments will tend to limit the role of CSOs and labour unions in the review especially in light of the COVID pandemic as well as social and economic repercussions. He highlighted that international organizations should further encourage governments to properly consult with CSOs and seek their contributions. He was pleased that the review is postponed to the first quarter of 2021 as this will give an opportunity for CSOs to better understand what is required from them. It will furthermore provide them more time to enhance their capacities, prepare and become ready for more effective participation in the review.

A representative from General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions pointed out that, although trade unions are active in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, they don't seem to be active in the countries of origin in his view. Labour migrants are often not aware of their rights and consequently are unable to defend their rights and communicate work-related complaints to labour unions in the countries of destination. In countries where violations against labour migrants occur, such as delays in wage payments or non-payment of wages, especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis, there are no platforms to report these violations. Accordingly, there is a need to build the capacities of labour unions to provide such services.

A representative from Arab Institute for Human Rights, Tunisia noted the important role of CSOs in lobbying governments to properly follow and integrate the GCM guiding principles and objectives. She also underlined the lack of awareness by labour migrants of their rights and the importance of building the capacities of countries of origin in this regard.

1. Response to questions asked by participants

Ms. Sara Salman (ESCWA) responded to the round of interventions by the different stakeholders by emphasizing the importance of ensuring the participation of various stakeholders in the conference sessions. She invited the participants to provide practical suggestions on how to activate the role of stakeholders, stating that ESCWA, IOM and partners of the Regional UN Network on Migration, in their turn, urge countries to involve stakeholders in the preparation of voluntary GCM review reports including with assistance through National United Nations Networks on Migration where it exists. They have been working to raise awareness and reach the largest possible number of stakeholders by making available reports, studies, dialogue platforms, exchange of experiences, etc. She

concluded that the participant's suggestion regarding capacity building for stakeholders is good and will be pursued.

Ms. Monami Maulik (United Nations Network on Migration Secretariat) responded to the issue of capacity-building and greater awareness-raising on the GCM and engagement of CSOs, by advising participants to use this opportunity to reach out to the regional and national focal points for the UN Network on Migration and request for specific training targeted at migrant associations, trade unions, etc. She noted that the United Nations Network on Migration at the global level is conducting capacity building workshops and a media publicity campaign through an online video series called "GCM in action." The series will include interviews with migrants, CSOs, trade unions, and other stakeholders on their GCM experiences and thoughts.

Regarding the format of report submissions by stakeholders, she explained that stakeholders could follow the Indicative Outline that are available online. This is while underlining that the general understanding is that stakeholders have the freedom to decide on the format provided they elaborate on their expectations, the challenges they are facing, and their experiences in working on the GCM.

Ms. Maulik drew the attention of participants to another resource that will be made available for them in the future, namely the Global Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub, an interactive platform where they will be able to engage online and submit initiatives, thereby forming a repository for good practices on migration.

Ms. Misato Yuasa (IOM) encouraged participants to visit the United Nations Network on Migration website and check the content under GCM Follow-Up and Review for the Arab States where they will find different support material. She noted that the landing page for the Arab region includes a section on Inputs by Stakeholders among other relevant reports made available which can support the development of reviews. Ms. Yuasa reiterated that nine (9) reports were received to date from Member States in the region and that stakeholders could submit the reports to GCM Regional Review Arab States <gcmrrarabstates@iom.int> and reach out to the nearest IOM offices in country as the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration to obtain more information. She concluded by inviting participants to present suggestions to the organizing entities on how they could assist the stakeholders better. She added that in addition to the available spaces online, participants might be interested in organizing thematic consultations or national consultations. She encouraged them to coordinate among themselves ensuring that the organizing entities would be happy to assist their efforts.

A representative from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies inquired on whether the present dialogue would be the last one after checking the timeline for stakeholder engagement available online and wanted to learn whether there would be another opportunity to share ideas, assessments, frustrations, etc.

Ms. Sara Salman (ESCWA) noted that the present dialogue is not the final event that will bring together governments and stakeholders. While it is the second and last in this dialogue series, there will be an informal Consultation for all stakeholders one day prior to the Regional Review Conference, and that the Regional Review will also include all relevant

stakeholders. She clarified that whole-of-society entities level of participation in the GCM Regional Review meeting is still being discussed to determine the best approach. A representative from the International Organization of Employers) asked if other Member States were planning to submit or were in the process of submitting their voluntary GCM review reports to gain a better sense of their anticipation and enthusiasm to participate.

Ms. Sara Salman (ESCWA) confirmed that the co-organizers received confirmations about additional submissions from some of the remaining countries, noting that some countries have requested an extension of the deadline.

Ms. Misato Yuasa (IOM) also confirmed that there are several Member States currently working hard to finalize drafting processes and that more reports are expected to be submitted, while underlining that this is a voluntary process. She noted that stakeholders could approach their government representatives to offer their support to help them developing the reports and organizing national consultations to make the review process more comprehensive.

The UNHCR representative inquired on when a summary of the dialogue discussions would be provided to participants. The co-organizers noted that the summary of the discussions will be translated and made available in three languages (Arabic, English and French) to be accessible for all stakeholders. It will also be posted on the website of the United Nations Network on Migration on the landing page for Arab region along with all the relevant information.

A representative from the Tunisian General Labor Union stressed the need for the development of internal dialogues to present practical proposals. She also emphasized the importance of building the capacities of trade unions, improving networking among them, and revitalizing relations at the regional level to enable them to make practical and useful proposals on the regional review process.

C. Concluding remarks and the way forward:

Ms. Kristina Mejo (IOM) highlighted the importance of outreach to National United Nations Networks on Migration given that the GCM implementation primarily happens at the national level, noting over 50 National UN Networks on Migration have been established globally since June 2019. She emphasized that the route-based approach and connection between countries of origin and destination is critical, highlighting an example of the National UN Network in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), a labour receiving country, and another UN Network in Bangladesh, a labour sending country, that are trying to improve coordination between the two countries. In addition, she underscored the importance of information sharing, raising awareness, and media campaigns to ensure a whole-of-society approach. Finally, Ms. Mejo shared with the participants that an event celebrating International Migrants Day will take place on December 18 that will look at reimagining human mobility in line with the GCM. She further noted the dialogue and discussions on enhancing the engagement of stakeholders are ongoing and will continue in the future.

Ms. Sara Salman (ESCWA) concluded that the organizers will work as much as possible to respond to all proposals/recommendations within the available capabilities. The anticipated Regional Review will have two main outputs: the first is a report that summarizes what was stated in the voluntary GCM review reports submitted by Member States, and the second is a summary of key messages that will reflect the voices of all stakeholders and participants in the Regional Review Conference which will feed into the International Migration Review Forum in 2022.

III. Participants

87 participants joined the dialogue on October 27, and 76 participants joined on November 3, from 21 different countries, namely: Lebanon, Belgium, Egypt, Jordan, United Kingdom, France, United States, Finland, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Algeria, Tunisia, Qatar, Morocco, Libya, Turkey, Netherlands, Iraq, Italy, Switzerland.

IV. Documents

The dialogue documents, including the agenda, presentations, and concept note are available at

<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/arab-states> and
<https://www.unescwa.org/events/multi-stakeholder-dialogue-global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular-migration-regional-review>