

**Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation
of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**
10 to 12 March 2021, Bangkok and videoconferencing

Agenda item 3. Thematic discussions on progress and challenges with regard to implementing the Global Compact at all levels, with due respect to the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of the Global Compact

- b) **Interactive Roundtable: Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance and border management measures (addressing objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21)**
10:30 – 12:00 am, 11 March 2021 (*Bangkok time*)

CONCEPT NOTE

Roundtable 2

1. Background

Border governance and border management broadly are central to achieving safe, orderly and regular migration. They are also central to the migration experience. What migrants expect to experience at the border informs their decisions throughout the migration cycle: the routes they take, how they live and work in transit and when they reach their destination, and their options for return.

The roundtable addresses the following objectives of the Global Compact for Migration:

4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
13. Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

Governments and stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific have worked on many of these objectives for some time. What is new is their agreement through the Global Compact for Migration to cooperate at the regional and international levels to intensify efforts in these areas. The Global Compact for Migration aims to leverage the potential of migration for the achievement of the above objectives and migration-related targets of the SDGs.

2. Objectives

The purpose of the roundtable is to elicit stakeholder experiences and views around the objectives of the GCM review, namely:

- To take stock of the overall progress of implementation of objectives to date
- Identify key challenges, opportunities, gaps and emerging issues
- Identify established and emerging good practices and lessons learnt
- Formulate recommendations on way forward and key priorities

3. Organizing team

The roundtable is organized by OHCHR, UNICEF and UNODC.

4. Format

Organization

Introduction (1 minutes) – *Chair*

Opening remarks on the theme and objectives (3 minutes) - *Moderator*

Short presentations by the panellists (8-10 minutes each)

Question and Answer (35 minutes)

Conclusion (2 minutes) - *Moderator*

Moderator

Mr. Julien Garsany, Deputy Regional Representative of UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Panellists

- Youth Speaker
- Ms. Aliya Yunusova, Child Rights Ombudsperson, Uzbekistan
- Mr. Roy Soemirat, Director for International Security and Disarmament, Directorate General of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia
- Ms Moomina Waheed, National Human Rights Commission, Maldives
- Ms. Carolina Gottardo, Executive Director, International Detention Coalition

5. Guiding questions

- Why is proof of legal identity and documentation important in order to protect migrants' rights and access to services? What challenges can we identify in the region that prevent migrants being able to obtain such documentation?
- What do we know about the numbers and situation of migrants who have died or gone missing en route or at destination? How do we fill data gaps in this regard? What else needs to be done to uphold Objective 8's commitment to "establish coordinated efforts" on missing migrants?
- What are the challenges faced by stateless persons in the Asia Pacific region and do we have examples of good practice to address them? How are children particularly impacted by being denied equal access to nationality?
- How do we manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner without posing significant human rights implications for trafficked persons and smuggled migrants? How can Regional Consultative Processes, like the Bali Process, promote, facilitate and contribute to this end?
- How do we support Member States' efforts to end immigration detention, including of children and their caregivers? What are some good and promising examples on ending immigration detention?
- How are returns of migrants being carried out within and into the region, including in the context of assisted voluntary returns programmes and returns of rejected

asylum seekers? Is there proper attention to individualized assessments, due process and upholding legal standards?

- How can children and youth, particularly those affected by migration, be agents of change and more meaningfully included in decision-making to accelerate the implementation of these GCM Objectives?
- What practical support can the United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific provide to Member States and stakeholders in fulfilling these GCM Objectives? What other forms of cooperation and collaboration are important to ensure implementation of the GCM in line with its guiding principles?

6. Background documents

[Asia Pacific Migration Report 2020](#) (chapter 3)

UN ESCAP dedicated [website](#)

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