

**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

- (d) **Interactive Roundtable: Strengthening evidence-based policymaking, public debate and cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration (addressing objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23)**
15:30 – 17:00 pm, 11 March 2021 (*Bangkok time*)

CONCEPT NOTE

Roundtable 4

1. Background

This roundtable is on: *'Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration'* and addresses the following objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration:

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

1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

Accurate, reliable, timely data that is disaggregated by sex, age, migration status, disability and other characteristics is vital for informed public discourse and the formulation of evidence-based and gender-response policies. Safe, orderly and regular migration requires informed and empowered migrants. In addition to being accurate and timely, the provision of information is greatly enhanced when it is targeted to a specific audience and in a language or medium that is comprehensible. Throughout the migration process, migrant vulnerabilities are not inevitable, but rather the outcome of policies which render migrants vulnerable. States' existing commitments to protecting the human rights of migrants in origin, transit and destination countries are central to effectively addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration.

Different forms of discrimination, fed by negative public perceptions, stigma and xenophobia, are at the root of policies making migration unsafe, disorderly and irregular.

Discrimination reflects and feeds negative public perceptions of migrants, and in addition to representing a violation of the rights of migrants can have a corrosive effect on wider society, breaking down trust and hindering the meaningful inclusion of migrants in communities. As Member States recognized in the Global Compact for Migration, “no State can address migration on its own because of its inherently transnational nature”, and involving countries of origin, transit and destination. Cooperation between and within States, and among various stakeholders in a whole-of-society approach, is crucial to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration.

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
- Identify resource requirements and capacity building needs
- Formulate recommendations on way forward and key priorities

3. Guiding questions

- What are the key challenges and lessons learnt in collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data relevant to migrants and migration? How can these challenges be addressed in order to ensure evidence-based policies?
- What challenges do migrants face in accessing information during their migration? What resources and capacity buildings are essential to ensure accurate and timely information at all stages of migration?
- How can States and relevant stakeholders effectively address the vulnerabilities that arise from the circumstances in which migrants travel or the conditions they face in countries of origin, transit and destination? What are some promising practices in this regard?
- How have States and other stakeholders in the region attempted to create positive public narrative of migrants and to address negative perceptions of migrants as well as stigma and discrimination? What are some enduring key challenges in this regard?
- What are some key recommendations to States and other relevant stakeholders in order to increase partnerships and engagement from the local to the national and international level to better support migrants at all stages of their journey?
- What practical support can the Regional Network on Migration 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?

4. Organizing Team

The roundtable is organized by ILO and OHCHR.

5. Format

The roundtable will consist of an opening plenary session, followed by an open discussion session, and a closing plenary session.

6. Further details on GCM objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23¹

Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

Asia-Pacific countries generally collect data on movements of people as well as immigration documentation (including visas, work permits etc.) issued to non-citizens. These data cover origin country and sex, although tabulations by sex are often not prepared or publicly available. Accurate, reliable, timely data that is disaggregated by sex, age, migration status, disability and other characteristics is vital for informed public discourse and the formulation of evidence-based and gender-response policies. This is important not only for policymakers but also for migrants and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

Safe, orderly and regular migration requires informed and empowered migrants. The lack of accurate information about migration processes leaves migrants profoundly disempowered. In the absence of accurate and timely information throughout the migration process, migrants may be unaware of their rights, leaving them prey to exploitation based on misinformation, or falling into irregularity for procedural reasons. In addition to being accurate and timely, the provision of information is greatly enhanced when it is targeted to a specific audience and in a language or medium that is comprehensible.

Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

This objective provides a normative guide to addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration. This objective also calls attention to the nuances of vulnerability and the need for tailored approaches to address and reduce vulnerabilities of specific groups of people and sectors of society affected by migration, including women and children, recognising that other migrants, particularly those in irregular situation, can also be in situations of vulnerability.

Objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

The principles of non-discrimination and elimination of racial discrimination as outlined in international law lie at the heart of this objective. This objective also promotes open and evidence-based public discourse on migration and migrants in partnership with all parts of society, generating a more realistic, humane and constructive perceptions in this regard. The principle of non-discrimination is a fundamental tenet of international human rights law, and applies equally to all migrants, regardless of status.

Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

As Member States recognized in the Global Compact for Migration, “no State can address migration on its own because of its inherently transnational nature”, and involving countries of origin, transit and destination. Gaps between jurisdictions created by differing definitions, understandings and laws, are enabling factors for the abuse of migrants throughout the migration cycle. International cooperation helps secure beneficial outcomes for origin and destination countries and migrants themselves and is

¹ The information is based on the Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020 produced by members of the UN Regional Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific. It is available here: <https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-migration-report-2020>

thus crucial to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration through implementing the objectives and actions of the GCM.

7. Background documents

[Concept Note: Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)

[Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020](#) (chapter 5)

Additional information is available on the dedicated UN ESCAP [website](#)

Contact persons:

Pia Oberoi (oberoi@un.org)

Vanessa Steinmayer (steinmayerv@un.org)