

Technical meeting of GCM Champion Countries: Summary of Discussions

3 November 2021

On 3 November 2021, the United Nations Network on Migration (Network) invited GCM Champion countries to discuss building momentum toward the IMRF and briefed them on Network guidance on bilateral labour migration agreements and on GCM national implementation plans.

The meeting was attended by 117 participants from 25 Member States represented by capitals and Permanent Missions; Network entities both at the Headquarters and country level; stakeholders covering local authorities and parliament members.

Over the course of discussions, delegates representing the following countries took the floor and participated via the chat space: Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Niger, the Philippines, Portugal, Thailand and Luxembourg.

Session 1- Momentum towards the IMRF

The Head of the Network Secretariat provided a brief update on the Network's IMRF Roadmap (French, Spanish) implementation and background for the discussions:

- Welcomed new Champion countries Costa Rica and Niger, now as 25 Champions; and also welcomed observers to the meeting – Fiji, Jamaica and Luxembourg as well as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Mayors Migration Council participating in this meeting.
- Thanked all for the active participation at the 19 October briefing on the IMRF roadmap, with the participation of the President of the UN General Assembly, and for the depth and breadth of discussions. The Roadmap includes the Secretary-General's Report on the GCM feeding into the IMRF - based on inputs and informal consultations including with Member States – with the launch planned in February 2022. Consultations on the background notes for the IMRF's roundtables are being planned for January.
- Underscored the importance of preparations for the IMRF - including through whole-of-government and whole-of society consultations - as much as the Forum itself and offered to share, in this regard, an updated calendar with these key events leading up to the IMRF.
- Reminded that the GCM regional reviews highlighted that some objectives have received more attention than others, which should be addressed, given the 360 degree approach of the GCM.
- Shared an update on the Migration Network Hub as the virtual "one-stop-shop" - discussion space and the repository of practices on GCM implementation that can support keeping the momentum in concrete ways and demonstrate collaboration.
- Shared a brief update on the Migration MPTF with 9 joint programmes currently underway and with extremely high demands remaining with 32 joint programmes in the pipeline. Appreciation was expressed for the four Champions serving on the Steering Committee (Ghana, Iraq, Mexico and the Philippines) and the three which served a full term already (Ecuador, Morocco, Thailand). USD 20 million has already been mobilized, including by Champions (Portugal, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand). Additional support and efforts to reach the Steering Committee's fundraising targets by IMRF remains crucial.
- Briefed on the possible pledging approach, building on the discussion of the Champions in May 2021, and the Coordinator briefing; highlighting concrete actions and commitments to build momentum towards the Forum with flexibility in the approach including as based on the Guiding Principles, Objectives, policy-oriented, or financial etc.

In response, Champions' interventions focused on:

- Their leadership roles in building momentum given the significance of this first global review of the GCM, in the context of the broader challenges including those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to build back better.
- Some of the actions being taken on GCM implementation including whole of government/whole of society approaches—some of the ways incorporating these approaches (on data strategy as evidence base, the set-up of the GCM implementation - presidential decree, council, focus group discussions, various actors involved around priorities etc.); several reaffirmed that their voluntary reports are being prepared with some being finalized soon.
- Ongoing actions and suggestions including Champions' campaigns (including social media) on key steps toward IMRF; regional initiatives such as in the Asia and Pacific region; Peer-learning and exchanges of practices, including through the Hub; and on seeking opportunities for further visibility of the Champions in multilateral events/meetings including side events.
- Preparatory conversations proposed to bring in local governments from Champions countries (eg Call to local actions) including supporting cities to commit to implement new actions or connect and match local and national levels; as well as additional suggestions by stakeholders for supporting champions roles ([link](#)).
- Some priorities on which to focus, including giving visibility to the underreported objectives or difficulties in implementation of certain aspects of GCM, such as the voices of migrants.
- On Migration MPTF, the importance of meeting its resource needs with promising projects in the pipeline; also the importance of having both traditional and non-traditional donors for the sustainability of GCM, and the continuing roles by the Champions in this regard.
- The need for concrete commitments in run-up to IMRF; useful for Member States to have ways to express commitments, beyond the usual inter-governmental process, with flexibility and with light administration/procedures.

As a next step, the Network secretariat will liaise with Champions on some of the proposed ideas on building momentum towards the IMRF, including circulating an updated calendar of key events.

Session 2: Update on Network Workstreams: Guidance, tools and materials

The session was intended as part of ongoing space for discussions on Champions' engagement with the Network's workstreams and working groups. The co-leads of the Network working group on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements –(Michele Leighton/ILO and Marina Manke/IOM) updated the Champions on their work including a planned [workshop](#); followed by a [presentation](#) from the Network's core working group on supporting GCM national implementation plans -(Kristin Eitel/IOM on behalf of the co-leads – IOM, OHCHR, UNDP) presented the latest, with great appreciations for the feedback and guidance since 26 May 2021 meeting.

In response, Champions:

- Commented with appreciation the usefulness of the BLMA guidance and shared some of the ongoing priorities plus existing and ongoing practices and plans to update and conclude a BLMA.
- Co-leads welcomed the feedback and proposed support for the BLMA workshop, also provided further clarification on the guidance to be made available and specific training by modular approach that could go in depth.

- Commented the usefulness of the guidelines and appreciated the update on the guidance on guidance on developing GCM national implementation plans.

In conclusion, the Network secretariat committed to facilitate the follow-up by the co-leads on these proposed collaborations and thanked participants for the meeting.