

## Consultation with Academia in preparation for the GCM Continental Review for Africa

### Concept Note 24 June 2021

#### I. Background

The global discourse on migration has gained increased salience over the last decades and led Member States to formally adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Marrakesh in December 2018, a non-binding document that provides a roadmap on how to achieve good migration governance through international cooperation and shared responsibility. Various stakeholders were involved in the development of the GCM, which included negotiations and consultations at the national, regional and global level, with representatives of Member States, local governments, the private sector, trade unions, civil society, parliamentarians, academia and migrants themselves. The GCM is the first intergovernmental negotiated agreement that covers all dimensions of international migration, listed under 23 objectives and led by ten guiding principles which place human rights and people at the core whilst promoting gender-responsive and child-sensitive approaches to managing migration in a way that is beneficial to migrant themselves, as well as countries of origin, transit, and destination. Furthermore, the GCM is rooted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and calls for a whole-of-society and whole-of government approach, recognizing the multi-dimensional and cross-cutting nature of migration, and its potential to contribute to development if adequately managed.

To ensure effective implementation of the GCM, periodical reviews were held at the regional level; for the Arab region, the one-day Multi-stakeholder consultation and the two-day Regional Review and took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, respectively. For the Continental Review for Africa, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July will consist of side events and the Multi-stakeholder Consultation, and the 12-13<sup>th</sup> July will be reserved for the technical and Ministerial level Continental Review for the GCM Regional Review Conference for Africa. This Continental Review will allow governments to undertake an initial assessment of progress made, highlight challenges and opportunities, identify gaps, discuss regional priorities, trends, approaches and underline necessary resources to implement the GCM. The Continental Review also provides a common platform for interactions between all relevant stakeholders to exchange lessons learned, good practices and common challenges and take stock of inputs from various other regional review processes, including those organized by regional consultative processes, civil society and academia among others. Lastly, it will facilitate the formulation of key findings and recommendations to inform the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) of which all regions will contribute.

Migration patterns in the North Africa Region are highly diverse, covering a range of inter and intra-regional movements. Moreover, countries in North Africa occupy central roles along a number of inter-continental mixed migration routes, including the Western Mediterranean, Central Mediterranean and Eastern Routes and often serve as countries of origin, transit and destination. Mobility to and through the region combines temporary and circular movements for seasonal labour, irregular migratory flows and more long-term migration for those fleeing violence and conflict, seeking better access to rights and pursuing a more dignified life.

The COVID-19 pandemic introduced new migration trends, exacerbated existing inequalities and brought to the forefront pressing issues of vulnerable migrant communities that are important to address. Countries in North Africa implemented various travel and mobility restrictions to contain the spread of the virus, which coupled with the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, greatly affected migrants' ability and desire to move as well as their livelihoods. COVID-19 has amplified risks for migrants and people on the move, with many finding themselves stranded in fragile situations, and others facing more hazardous, costly and uncertain onward journeys, increasingly reliant on opportunistic smugglers.

The COVID-19 crisis has further impacted the collection of data efforts and affected the implementation of the first objective of the GCM on collecting disaggregated data, which the GCM stakeholders online survey report, prepared for the Regional Review in the Arab region, identified as an area where more efforts are needed, along with Objective 02 (on drivers of migration), and Objective 06 (on fair and ethical recruitment). This underscores the need for a dedicated consultation that unpacks some of these findings and further contextualizes them to the North African context. Academics are important stakeholders whose research on migration and mobility trends can inform the way forward and serve as valuable inputs to design evidence-based policies and facilitate the review and follow-up of the GCM and its objectives. In line with this, the IOM MENA Regional Office in coordination with the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force (NAMMTF) and the UN Network on Migration Secretariat are planning to conduct a consultation dedicated solely to Academics, migration studies experts and researchers in North Africa to strengthen their involvement in the implementation of the GCM in North Africa.

#### **a. Objectives:**

The objectives of the consultation are to:

1. Provide a platform for academic stakeholders to discuss emerging research priorities, most updated migration trends and data with regards to the progress on the GCM implementation by North African countries in light of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.
2. Formulate recommendations to enhance the contributions of research and academia in the formulation of evidence-based migration policies addressing the gaps.
3. Review and prioritize the findings of the GCM Multi-Stakeholder online survey to highlight and unpack the specific needs, challenges, opportunities and recommendations for the North African Region from the perspective of academic stakeholders.
4. Inform the discussions and outcomes of the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation (8<sup>th</sup> July 2021) and the technical and Ministerial level Continental Review for the GCM Regional Review Conference for Africa (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021).

#### **b. Venue and Participation:**

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the multi-stakeholder dialogue will be held virtually on ZOOM, and will allow for simultaneous translation in Arabic, English and French. To truly embrace a whole-of-society approach and whole-of-government, attendance will be open to a wide scope of stakeholders including academics, researchers, Civil Society organizations, Member States, the private sector, and migrants themselves amongst others.

### c. Agenda

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 from 11:00 am- 12:30 pm Cairo Time

10:45-11:00	Registration
11:00-11:05	Welcoming remarks - IOM (Mrs. Carmela Godeau, Regional Director)
11:05-11:15	Scene Setting - Presentation by the Network Secretariat (Ms. Monami Maulik) on the GCM principles, objectives, and its follow up and review <b>(5 min)</b> - Presentation by Academic and Rapporteur of Multi-Stakeholder Consultation in the Arab Region (Dr. Ayman Zohry) on the findings and key messages from the Multi-stakeholder Report and Consultation for the Arab Region <b>(5 min)</b> -
11:15-12:25	<b>Interventions from the floor:</b> This session will allow participants to present and showcase migration trends, research gaps and opportunities in the North Africa Region and present recommendations on how to best achieve GCM objectives in light of the COVID-19 pandemic <b>(5-7 min per intervention)</b> - First intervention - Second intervention - Third intervention - Fourth intervention - Fifth intervention - Sixth intervention - Seventh intervention <b>Q&amp;A (15 mins)</b> • <b>Guiding Questions:</b> - What are some of the most recent migration trends, key research gaps and emerging opportunities for the North Africa region? - How has COVID-19 affected migration and mobility in North Africa? What data can you share with us? - How have you engaged so far at the national and regional levels with regards to the GCM implementation, review and follow up? - How would you describe the progress of the GCM implementation in your country/region and which objectives made the most progress since the adoption of the GCM in December 2018? - Which objectives require further efforts and support? What type of support is needed? <b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Ayman Zohry
12:25-12:30	Closing remarks and the way forward - IOM (Ms. Kristina Mejo)

#### **d. Outcome**

The consultation outcomes will be summarized as key messages and recommendations and will be presented as an outcome report. The outcome report will be shared online on the [UN Network for Migration Website](#) and will be annexed to the outcome report of the GCM Continental Review Conference for Africa (12-13 July 2021).