



United Nations Network on Migration

3rd Annual Meeting

Friday, 10 December 2021: 17h

Coordinator's Closing Remarks

As delivered

Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to say a few words at the end of this third Annual Meeting of the Network.

We meet on a day packed with significance. The third anniversary of the adoption of the Global Compact. Exactly five months out from the Compact's first global review. And as we commemorate our collective belief in the universality and fundamental importance of our human rights.

This last reminds us that whether discussing international migration or any other collective endeavour, there is no more important calling than upholding and reinforcing the rights of all.

Over these two days, we have had a chance to take stock of how far we have come as a Network. I am proud of our achievements and grateful for the recognition received, including during last week's IOM Council.

Great strides have been made in bringing the system together; in supporting our Member States; and in ensuring a platform for the meaningful engagement and inclusion of stakeholders. We have built the basis for future growth – grounded in a commitment to adapt where necessary; to constantly learn from each other; and to strengthen communications at all levels, between all partners.

I thank you for your support in what has been a collective achievement.

As this year winds down, we must now look ahead to the challenges of the next.

The first IMRF, in May, constitutes an important moment to take stock of the state of implementation of the Global Compact.

It also, in parallel, provides us with a forum in which to come together, under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly, to discuss collective approaches to collective goals – as such, it is a powerful tool for multilateralism.

The Forum presents us with an opportunity to discuss the challenges we face in realizing the pursuit of safe, orderly and regular migration grounded in the full spectrum of that phrase: committed, in other words, to its 360-degree realization.

But it also presents us with an opportunity to identify and discuss approaches to the most pressing issues on our agenda.

Colleagues,

The past two years have shown us – with shuddering power – just how fragile our systems of global mobility are. The seismic disruptions to migration and the impacts these have had on the lives of so many demand we ask what lessons we can learn for the future to better insulate ourselves from future shocks; and to better erase the stains of exclusion and inequality that we see too often in our societies, and that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

The Forum provides an opportunity for just such discussions.

In my recent conversations with the President of the General Assembly, he made clear the priority he was according to the IMRF during his presidency. I assured him of the total commitment of the Network in supporting him in this endeavour.

In that regard, I would like to leave you with four ideas as to how we can work together to make the Forum the success we want for it.

First, let us commit to a Forum that is truly global, and truly inclusive. A Forum in which the whole-of-government and whole-of-society guiding principles shine through. A Forum which is open to and benefits from the active involvement of all States from all regions. And a Forum committed to the sharing of experiences, and of course to further cooperative action.

I am confident that we can deliver on this. And I am grateful to the commitment of so many States to this joint exercise, whether GCM Champions, Migration MPTF donors, or those many others who contribute ideas and support at national, regional and global levels. To all of you, my thanks.

Second, let us commit to using the months before May to increase our understanding of the challenges ahead; and to refine our understanding of what we want out of the Forum, for the future. Indeed, the Forum is both an end point of this first phase in the life of the Global Compact and also, vitally, a launch pad for the next. We must come away from this gathering in May with a clear sense of purpose and of direction.

The Network will be supporting a busy calendar of discussions – in preparation for the Roundtables and Policy Dialogue and to launch the Secretary-General's report in February –

designed to inform the Forum's discussions, bring all partners together, and ensure we don't enter May from a standing start. Your active engagement in these discussions will be vital.

Third, let us use all the tools at our disposal. In particular, I would like to highlight the importance – potential and still to be realized – of the Compact's capacity building mechanism.

The Fund, as we have seen, has made great strides. It brings the system together, its methods guarantee inclusivity and alignment with national priorities. It is the embodiment of a commitment to cooperation. And, through it, we can realise, in the most visible of ways, the aspirations of the Global Compact, including as we discussed in this morning's Consultative Forum, in how we can address the evolving relationship between climate change and migration.

Reinforcing its capital base so that we can emerge from the Forum with a Fund poised to launch many more programmes of support – I think this must be a priority.

But so, too, must be bringing further to life the Migration Network Hub – comprising the global knowledge platform and connection hub. This, too, represents our commitment to cooperation to mutual learning, to the sharing of ideas.

I call on all of us to make the Hub the vital tool its architects – you the Member States – called for it to be.

Finally, as we have trailed in a number of recent conversations, the Network – with the endorsement of the President of the General Assembly – will mark International Migrants Day next week by launching a GCM Pledging Initiative.

More guidance on this will be coming soon, but in essence we will be asking all partners – Member States, stakeholders, and the UN system – to reflect on what more they can do, in ways that are concrete, new and measurable, to further the implementation of the Global Compact.

We hope through this initiative to further reinforce the cooperative underpinnings of the Compact; to further build momentum towards an IMRF that generates tangible outcomes; and to provide the most visible demonstration of our commitment truly to leave no-one behind.

Let me now bring this Annual Meeting to a close, with my thanks for your unfailing support during this demanding year; my optimism for what we can achieve in the coming year; and with three words that you will be hearing from me, and I hope from the Network, more and more often: Make a pledge!

Thank you.