



## Draft Guidance on registration and criteria for stakeholder engagement with the Global Compact for Migration regional review meetings and their preparatory processes

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This note seeks to provide greater clarity and cohesion across regional Networks<sup>1</sup> to determine the procedures for open, equal and inclusive engagement of stakeholders<sup>2</sup> in the preparatory processes leading up to and within the regional review meetings, together with any relevant selection criteria.

The note builds upon the principles of ensuring transparency, inclusivity, diversity and meaningful participation as outlined in the UN Network on Migration general guidance on stakeholder engagement in the regional reviews<sup>3</sup>. These principles are based upon the whole-of-society guiding principle of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM) and in the modalities resolution for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)<sup>4</sup>.

The GCM regional reviews will afford an early opportunity to implement the recently launched UN-system wide Guidance Note on Protection and Promotion of Civic Space<sup>5</sup> as outlined in the Secretary General's call to action this year for a "system-wide strategy on civic space and adequate guidance to UN leaders in the field along with mechanisms to: (i) positively engage with interlocutors to promote and protect civic space; (ii) respond to undue restrictions on civic space; and, (iii) protect the space for different stakeholders to express their views"<sup>6</sup>.

As highlighted in the UNSDG Minimum Standards on Engagement of Multi-stakeholders in UNDAFs, the "UN has a role in enabling civic space both to ensure stakeholder engagement and participation in its operations, and to protect and promote civic space in its advocacy with national governments"<sup>7</sup>. The reviews offer a means to enhance civic space and collaborative relationships with stakeholders as full partners in implementation of the GCM.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes regional migration Networks or pre-existing migration coordination platforms that have been set up or strengthened with a view to enhancing coordination amongst the relevant actors and providing coherent support by the UN system to Member States in the implementation of the GCM at the country/regional level.

<sup>2</sup> Including migrants, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders at global, regional and national levels.

<sup>3</sup> [Implementation, Follow-up and Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration – Ensuring meaningful engagement of civil society and all relevant stakeholders for regional reviews.](#)

<sup>4</sup> The GCM (para 48) commits to "review the progress made at the local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and *with the participation of all relevant stakeholders*", [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/195](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/195); the GA resolution on the Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums (para 10) invites "to review the implementation of the Global Compact, within their respective regions, and to contribute to the work of the forums, *with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders*", [https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/default/files/docs/a\\_res\\_73\\_326\\_0.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/default/files/docs/a_res_73_326_0.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/CivicSpace/UN\\_Guidance\\_Note.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/CivicSpace/UN_Guidance_Note.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The\\_Highest\\_Aspiration\\_A\\_Call\\_To\\_Action\\_For\\_Human\\_Right\\_English.pdf](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The_Highest_Aspiration_A_Call_To_Action_For_Human_Right_English.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/UNSDG-Common-Minimum-Standards-for-Multi-Stakeholder.pdf>

## I. Overview of Participation and Registration

- Regional Networks are encouraged to create open and transparent criteria for meaningful stakeholder engagement supported by the recommendations outlined below. The Network understands meaningful engagement to include the systematic, ongoing participation of all relevant stakeholders in line with the GCM paragraph 48 and the IMRF modalities resolution paragraph 4, and encompassing:
  - holding a dedicated informal multi-stakeholder consultation just prior to the review meeting;
  - hosting regular preparatory briefings for stakeholders leading up to the reviews;
  - providing materials in relevant languages, where feasible;
  - publishing stakeholder reports on GCM implementation on the Network website;
  - considering stakeholder inputs to planning the agenda of all relevant meetings; and
  - actively promoting stakeholder participation in intergovernmental meetings that are part of the regional reviews.
- As events are in many instances likely to be virtual, physical meeting space and funding (save for online platforms) is anticipated to be a less acute concern, providing an opportunity to broaden engagement. Numbers should be as inclusive as possible and any selection should consider sectoral, national, sub-regional, age<sup>8</sup> and gender, and the full participation of migrant-led organizations.
- As outlined in the OHCHR “Civic Space and COVID 19: Guidance”, concerns related to virtual meetings include lack of access due to unstable internet connection, different and unfamiliar participation modalities, less interpretation facilities and possibility of reduced side event space/participation. Every reasonable effort should be made to ameliorate these challenges. Of relevance will be the facilitation of meaningful participation through privacy-respecting, cost effective and accessible online platforms which can facilitate more systematic outreach to grassroots organisations and civil society organisations.
- In line with the soon to be launched UN-system wide guidance note on participation by civil society across UN processes and endorsed by the Secretary General<sup>9</sup>, ‘participation, protection and promotion’ are significant with respect to civic space. In particular, some areas to consider in facilitating secure engagement include:

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<sup>8</sup> See Guidelines on Adolescent Participation and Civic Engagement at:  
<https://www.unicef.org/documents/engaged-and-heard-guidelines-adolescent-participation-and-civic-engagement>

<sup>9</sup>[https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The\\_Highest\\_Aspiration\\_A\\_Call\\_To\\_Action\\_For\\_Human\\_Right\\_English.pdf](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The_Highest_Aspiration_A_Call_To_Action_For_Human_Right_English.pdf)



- Assurance that any personal registration information provided by participants will be encrypted and would not be accessible, used or misused by others, unless participants expressly consent on making their information available.
  - Provide a channel to report any threats and reprisals against civil society actors for being part of these consultations.
  - Create feedback channels and mechanisms to address stakeholders' grievances concerning access to information and meaningful participation.
- To promote openness and transparency, any further finalized set of criteria for engagement as determined by each regional Network should be communicated in advance to stakeholders and made available on the regional reviews' website.

## **II. Engagement and Registration Criteria**

### **Suggested specific criteria for engagement in each of the several phases of the regional review process:**

#### **a. Receiving information on the preparatory process and review meeting:**

Criteria: Open to all who are interested

Activities:

- Regional networks/IBCs to consolidate stakeholder outreach lists among regional Network members, RECs and global Network members.
- Regional Networks to circulate regular email and online updates on stakeholder registration, how to make written submissions, regional calendars and events.
- Network at global level to circulate regular email and online updates on overall processes across regions.
- Regional Networks to organize virtual briefings and consultations to provide information and draw inputs on the review process and design agendas for the informal multi-stakeholder consultations.
- Employ good practices which have already been advanced in other regions. For example, stakeholders could be invited to express their interest to be part of a design team partnering with Network members to set the agenda and speakers for multi-stakeholder consultations. The secretariat will facilitate such exchanges.
- Regional Networks send via email an invitation to all relevant stakeholders to apply for registration in the informal multi-stakeholder consultations and the formal intergovernmental review meeting at least six weeks in advance.

#### **b. Submission and posting of inputs/reports by stakeholders**

Criteria:

- The Network should be open to all submissions from relevant stakeholders in preparation for the IMRF as expressed in its modalities resolution.



- Minimal assessment of submissions will be conducted by a task team to ensure suitability for publication on a UN website. Elements to consider could include length of submission and use of proper language. Any further vetting procedures should be discouraged. The website can include a disclaimer making clear that these submissions are placed there in their original, unedited form and do not necessarily have the endorsement of the UN. The task team may consist of Network members at the regional and global level, and the secretariat to ensure that submissions are relevant and appropriate.

Activities:

- A task team including regional and global Network members and the Network secretariat will work with the Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub working group to post submissions on the landing page for the regional reviews.

**c. Participation in the informal Multi-Stakeholder Consultations:**

Criteria: Open to all relevant stakeholders with consideration for ensuring an effective and agile meeting size and balancing sectoral, sub-regional, national, gender representation and engagement of migrants.

Activities:

- The Regional Networks establish and manage an online registration platform for a multi-stakeholder consultation to take place just before the formal review meeting.
- Design of the agenda and selection of speakers on panels: Inputs are drawn from broad calls for expressions of interest for stakeholder participation. Speakers are drawn from these suggestions and selected by a task team including regional Network members, the secretariat and may involve stakeholders in an open and equally accessible manner.
- One good practice is to identify a rapporteur among stakeholders from an open call for expressions of interest. The rapporteur would channel the conclusions from the consultation at the opening panel of the intergovernmental review meeting.
- An online multi-lingual platform is used with clear and user-friendly modalities. Some good practices include using interactive online tools such as surveys and discussion boards and the ability to host breakout sessions. For further good practices, refer to OHCHR's draft note on online participation in UN processes.
- Organization and coordination of the meeting is planned by the regional Network, any regional stakeholder focal points and the Network secretariat.

**d. Attendance in the formal Intergovernmental Regional Review Meeting (for virtual meetings):**

**Open to those who may request to make interventions from the floor:**

Criteria: With consideration for ensuring a balance of representation by sector, sub-regional, national, age, gender and engagement of migrants, along with the following additional criteria:



- Be a representative of a relevant stakeholder entity as cited in the GCM and/or IMRF modalities.
- Is officially authorized by their organization or network to speak on the organization or institution's behalf.
- Has expertise or experience in international migration or related and intersectional issues.

For selection of speakers on panels and for interventions from the floor:

1. On opening and closing panels and in roundtables:
  - Inputs are drawn from open calls for expressions of interest and nominations.
  - Speakers are drawn from these suggestions and selected by respective task teams as per above
2. For interventions from the floor, ensure effective inclusion of stakeholder interventions from a diversity of actors, on any equal basis.

**Open to those who request to attend and observe only:** They will receive a link to a recording of the meeting or join the virtual platform in view and listen mode only.

Criteria: Open to all relevant stakeholders with consideration to balancing sectoral, sub-regional, national, gender representation and engagement of migrants.