



IMRF Guidance note for Country and Regional Networks and UN Country Teams

[The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM) established the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), a quadrennial meeting at the highest political level to gauge progress made, while identifying persistent or emerging challenges to the full implementation of the GCM. (para 49). The first IMRF will take place in May 2022 in New York and serve to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the GCM. It will conclude with the adoption of a **Progress Declaration**.

As this is the first IMRF, there is a unique opportunity, within the remit set by the GCM and the attendant modalities resolution, to help set the tone and ambition of the Forum, uphold the GCM’s guiding principles, and contribute to the delineation of concrete recommendations for the following four years. The IMRF and its preparations will also be an opportunity to demonstrate the ability of the Network to provide effective and coherent support to GCM implementation, and its follow-up and review.

Format and organization of IMRF

The IMRF will consist of three elements: four interactive multi-stakeholder round tables (RTs), a policy debate and a plenary session during which the Progress Declaration will be adopted. An informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings will be organized one day before the IMRF and will be presided by the President of the General Assembly. Each RT will cover a set of specific objectives of the GCM:

- (i) Round table one: objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18;
- (ii) Round table two: objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21;
- (iii) Round table three: objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22;
- (iv) Round table four: objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23;

The format and organization of the IMRF, summarized in the table below, is outlined in the [Modalities Resolution](#), adopted by the General Assembly (please see [Annex 2](#) of the IMRF Roadmap for more information on the Modalities Resolution).

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
	Morning		
Roundtables	Roundtables	Plenary *Opening segment with statements by: PGA, UNSG, IOM Rep. from migrant community, rep. of civil society	Plenary General debate
	Afternoon		
Roundtables	Policy debate Facilitated by IOM DG. *Technical Summary of roundtables presented. *Discussion to on: 1) challenges in the implementation of the GCM 2) the capacity building mechanism 3) contemporary and emerging issues related to migration 4) possible guidance for the UN system to strengthen its efforts in improving system-wide effectiveness and coherence and in supporting MS in implementing the GCM.	Plenary General debate	Plenary *Closing segment *PGA remarks *Progress Declaration adopted

The Network is mandated to support preparations for the IMRF, as well as the Forum itself, in a number of ways. These include the preparation of the Secretary-General’s Report, preparing information material, drafting the **background notes** for the IMRF



Roundtables and facilitating the policy debate. The drafting of the background notes will be co-facilitated by the following entities:

- Roundtable one: ILO and UNDP
- Roundtable two: IOM and UNODC
- Roundtable three: WHO and the UN Major Group for Children and Youth
- Roundtable four: OHCHR and DESA.

The preparatory phase will also be supported by an outreach campaign to raise the profile of the IMRF; ensure that all 23 objectives of the GCM are duly considered, along with its guiding principles; and encourage the meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders. There will also be concerted efforts to support the resource mobilization of the Migration MPTF.

The [IMRF Roadmap](#) details all the steps of the process leading to the IMRF. Regular updates, information and background documents will be shared with country/regional Networks and UNCT including through a Newsletter and the [dedicated page](#) of the Network website.

The role of the Network at regional and country-level and of UN Country Teams

At the time of writing, six regional and 54 [country mechanisms](#) have been created, to ensure system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM. These mechanisms or, where they do not exist the UN Country teams, can support Member States through facilitating the following activities:

1. **Voluntary GCM reviews:** these are a voluntary national stocktaking of the implementation of the GCM, to inform the participation of Member States at the IMRF. Countries that have already prepared voluntary GCM reviews for the [regional reviews](#) process may wish to, as appropriate, update and resubmit their review. Countries that have yet to prepare a voluntary GCM review are invited to use the template provided [here](#). Voluntary National Reviews can be submitted to both the respective Regional Networks and to the Network secretariat that will upload them to the dedicated website. In line with the GCM whole-of-society approach, the reviews should be based on **consultations** with relevant stakeholders including migrants, diaspora organizations, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, national human rights institutions and the media. Suggestions for the preparation of the consultations can be drawn from the IMRF suggested checklist for preparing and organizing voluntary national GCM reviews ([ANNEX 1](#)).
2. **Collecting and sharing best practices:** the IMRF will be the key forum to review the impact that the GCM is having on national and international cooperation efforts on migration, and ultimately the lives of migrants, their families and community members. In this respect, country networks and UNCTs will play a pivotal role in collecting [best practices](#) and submitting them to the Network [secretariat](#) using a form that is being finalized and that will be uploaded in the [IMRF section](#) of the Network website. Best practices will be uploaded onto the [Migration Network Hub](#). They should also be included in the voluntary GCM review.



3. **Communication and mobilization:** at country level, outreach to stakeholders including communications and information about the IMRF will be key to the success of the review. In this respect, country networks and UNCTs will play an essential role in mobilizing all relevant stakeholders. A specific communication package inclusive of key messages, FAQ, templates and branding is being prepared and will be shared by the Network Secretariat in due time.
4. **Identifying participants and supporting participation at the IMRF:** the success of the IMRF will rest in part on attaining the broadest possible participation of governments and stakeholders, calling to mind the two guiding principles of whole of government and whole of society. Thus, at country level, the Network could identify and encourage relevant authorities and stakeholders to register for the IMRF and actively participate in its preparation, noting that the IMRF shall be held at the highest possible political level. Once participants have been identified, logistical and financial support (please see point 5 below) could be provided, finances depending. In addition, the Network could contribute to identifying possible keynote speakers for the roundtables, including representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, academic, scientific and knowledge-based institutions, the private sector, trade unions, faith-based, migrant and youth organizations, diaspora communities and other relevant stakeholders, communicating their names to the Network [secretariat](#). A note on stakeholder engagement and registration is being developed and will be shared shortly.
5. **Encouraging Member States, financial institutions and other organizations to make financial contributions:** In the [Modalities Resolution](#), the General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate. To fund the participation of representatives of developing countries in the IMRF, a dedicated window of the [Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#) (MMPTF) has been created. However, to date, the window remains unfunded. Thus, at local level Networks are invited to encourage Member States and others to fund the MMPTF. Additional economic support should also be sought with financial institutions and other organizations bearing in mind that Network members may also have funding available.
6. **Encouraging Champion Countries to play a leading role:** since October 2020, 24 states have become a [Champion Country](#), namely:
 - Africa (Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal);
 - Asia/Pacific (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand);
 - Middle East and North Africa (Egypt, Iraq and Morocco),
 - Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico);
 - Western Europe and Other Group (Canada, Portugal).

While Champions are showing increasing signs of wanting to take a proactive stance in promoting the GCM, they should be all encouraged to play a leading role in building up momentum towards IMRF including through regional and global discussions. In this context, Champion countries could lead by example through:



- Ensuring their national delegations to the IMRF are inclusive, supporting the participation of different stakeholders;
 - Introducing a matching pledge proposal for the MMPTF (e.g. the champion country/countries will contribute a certain amount if the traditional donor community will do the same);
 - Making a pledge to support the concrete implementation of the GCM (a note on Pledging for the International Migration Review Forum will be shared in due time).
7. **Considering priorities of the Global Workplan:** alongside the process leading to the IMRF, country Networks and UNCTs are encouraged to give due consideration to the Network Global [Workplan](#) as adopted by the Principals of the Network Executive Committee.

The role of the Network at regional level

At regional level, the Network could facilitate the following:

8. Feeding into IMRF preparations the results of progress made in the implementation of their Workplans;
9. Fundraising to finance the participation of representatives of developing countries in the IMRF (please see para 5 above) and the MMPTF;
10. Identifying priorities moving forward for regional/sub-regional cooperation;
11. Contributing to National Voluntary GCM Reviews;
12. Compiling and analysing National Voluntary GCM Reviews;
13. Organizing consultative events with relevant regional platforms and organizations that, building on the regional reviews, identify inputs for the IMRF including best and existing practices (see para 2 above);
14. Mobilising regional champions;
15. Communicating and mobilizing for the IMRF (please see para 3 above);
16. Identifying possible keynote speakers for the roundtables.



ANNEX 1

IMRF suggested checklist for preparing and organizing voluntary national GCM reviews

1. Preparatory process

- The Network could support governments and other stakeholders in preparing a voluntary stocktaking of the implementation of the GCM ('voluntary GCM review') to be presented during the IMRF. An indicative outline is provided [here](#).
- The reviews should be organized in line with the GCM vision and guiding principles (paras 8-15).
- Stakeholders¹ should be meaningfully involved in preparing the reviews through appropriate methods of consultation, including by soliciting their written inputs (an indicative outline is provided in [ANNEX 2](#)) and/or organising a public consultation event.

2. Consultation events

To facilitate the contribution of the voluntary reviews to the IMRF a consultation event could be organised that broadly follows the organization of the IMRF (A/RES/73/326, para 21 to 25). In particular, the consultation could:

- Offer space for discussion covering all 23 objectives of the GCM with the aim of reviewing the progress made in its implementation at all levels, bearing in mind that the GCM is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles. While taking into account national specificities and priorities, this could be achieved by organizing four roundtables covering all 23 objectives as indicated in para 21(b) of resolution 73/326:
 - o Round table one: objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18;
 - o Round table two: objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21;
 - o Round table three: objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22;
 - o Round table four: objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23.
- Pay due regard to gender balance, as well as reflection of the whole-of-government and whole-of-society, in the selection of panellists and moderators.
- Include debates that are interactive, evidence-based, and action-oriented in nature.
- Invite UN Network / UNCT members to contribute to the preparation of the consultation, including by providing inputs, organising the work, reaching out to stakeholders, preparing the agenda, including the list of invited panellists and moderators, and facilitating travel of delegates.

¹ Including migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, 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.



3. Report

Countries are invited to send their voluntary GCM reviews and national implementation plans to the secretariat of the Network (unmignet@iom.int) after which they will be posted on the Network's website (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/>).



ANNEX 2

Indicative outline for relevant stakeholders contributing to reviewing the status of implementation of the GCM at the national level.

This template is based on the one that was developed in the context of the preparations for the GCM regional review process. However, the specific references to the regional reviews have been omitted.

In preparing for the review, relevant stakeholders could submit inputs addressing the following areas:

- (a) Update on the status of implementation of national plans and strategies on migration, per relevant GCM objective if possible, based on statistical data, where available.
- (b) How national bodies and processes have integrated the cross-cutting and interdependent GCM guiding principles, including the whole-of-society and whole-of-government principles, into existing plans and policies (and whether that helped address trade-offs and accelerate implementation).
- (c) What the main gaps and challenges are to existing national approaches, strategies and implementation plans.
- (d) List some examples of and lessons learned that may be relevant for other regions. These could be presented at the IMRF and submitted to a dedicated repository in the [Migration Network Hub](#) using the specific form that is being finalized and that will be uploaded in the [IMRF section](#) of the Network website.
- (e) Outline areas (GCM objectives and/or guiding principles) where the country would need support in terms of finance, capacity-building, policy advice, data gathering and analysis, technology, partnerships, etc.