



## Secretary-General's Report on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Summary

*The Secretary-General's biennial report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/195 (19 December 2018). Drawing from extensive consultations with Member States, United Nations entities, civil society and other stakeholders, it captures a wide range of practices and gaps in the implementation of the GCM while offering a roadmap for advancing GCM commitments ahead of the 2026 global review (the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Migration Review Forum - IMRF).*

### What is this report about?

The Secretary-General's biennial report provides a global overview of achievements, challenges and areas of improvement. In addition, it proposes a limited set of indicators to assist reviews of the Compact and a strategy for improving disaggregated migration data; and provides actionable recommendations on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress.

### What progress have countries made in GCM implementation?

The report highlights progress in establishing rights-based, people-centered migration governance and integrating migration into national development plans.

- **Enhancing regular migration pathways and minimizing adverse drivers:** Many countries have strengthened legal migration channels, addressing labour market demands and ensuring migration remains a choice rather than a necessity. For example, some countries have implemented programs to increase family reunification, while others have introduced targeted labour migration programs that respond to sector-specific needs. Additionally, countries have increasingly recognized and prioritized the link between human mobility and climate change.
- **Ensuring rights-based border management and protecting migrants in vulnerable situations:** Countries are advancing rights-based border management practices that balance security with the dignity, safety and well-being of migrants. Some countries have implemented border practices that provide essential services, such as legal aid or emergency healthcare, to migrants upon arrival. Specific protections for vulnerable groups—such as children, victims or survivors of trafficking and those facing heightened risks due to conflict or crisis—are being implemented. Some States have also implemented the Compact's child-sensitivity guiding principle and others have ceased to practice pre-deportation detention for children. Additionally, several countries are developing and adopting alternatives to detention, such as community-based care arrangements or case management systems.



- **Ensuring access to services and fostering inclusion, integration and meaningful participation:** Countries increasingly recognize the importance of ensuring access to essential services, including healthcare, education and social protection. For instance, certain policies have expanded healthcare for migrant children and their inclusion in national education systems. Policies promoting migrants' meaningful participation in society and in decision-making processes at local and national levels are also advancing.
- **Harnessing migration to accelerate sustainable development:** Recognizing migration's positive contributions, countries are using it to drive sustainable development goals. Migrant workers play key roles in sectors such as food systems, agriculture and healthcare, and remittances sent by migrants continue to be a lifeline for millions. In addition, governments are implementing policies to enhance financial inclusion of migrants and are investing in diaspora engagement to further sustainable development efforts. Examples include financial literacy programs for migrants and diaspora initiatives that support infrastructure development in countries of origin.
- **Enhancing data, international cooperation and partnerships:** Countries are strengthening data collection and sharing mechanisms to support migration governance and evidence-based policies. Collaborative efforts between governments, United Nations entities, civil society and the private sector are enhancing GCM implementation by fostering partnerships that address migration's complex challenges. Increased international cooperation has proven essential in managing cross-border migration issues, sharing promising practices and facilitating mutual support in areas such as migrant protection, humanitarian assistance and development.

### What new mandates have been introduced?

Following the first International Migration Review Forum Progress Declaration, the Secretary-General's report introduces two key mandates to support effective GCM implementation:

- **GCM indicators:** The report introduces a voluntary set of indicators to help assess implementation progress on a voluntary basis. These indicators align with the Sustainable Development Goals, providing a coherent framework for tracking and evaluating migration-related policies. They are intended to support measuring achievements across GCM objectives and identifying areas for further action. These indicators also enable States to integrate migration into their broader development agendas, ensuring that migration policies contribute positively to social and economic development.
- **Recommendations on missing migrants and humanitarian assistance for migrants in distress:** These concrete recommendations focus on preventing migrant deaths, enhancing search and rescue efforts and improving identification and support systems for missing migrants and their families. They call for coordinated efforts to ensure that search and rescue operations are timely and humane and that mechanisms for reporting and identifying missing persons are strengthened. All relevant actors are encouraged to work collaboratively, share information and provide support for the families of missing

migrants, ensuring that humanitarian assistance is separated from immigration enforcement to foster trust and accessibility.

### **What gaps or challenges remain in GCM implementation?**

Key challenges include ongoing risks to migrant safety on irregular routes and inconsistencies in protection for vulnerable migrant populations across countries. Additionally, negative migration narratives and xenophobia continue to pose barriers to inclusive migration policies. The report underscores the need for stronger international cooperation to address these challenges effectively.

### **What are the Secretary-General's main recommendations?**

The Secretary-General calls for stronger multilateral cooperation on issues such as data sharing, missing migrants and regular migration channels. Specific recommendations include enhancing coordination mechanisms, expanding migrant protection and investing in policies that address both humanitarian and economic aspects of migration. Additionally, the Secretary-General encourages Member States to submit new or strengthened pledges to support GCM implementation. By making formal commitments, States can demonstrate their dedication to advancing the Compact's objectives, share promising practices and mobilize resources that contribute to more comprehensive, rights-based migration governance.

### **How does the United Nations Network on Migration support GCM implementation?**

The Network on Migration, through its tools and resources, supports States in translating the GCM's 23 objectives and 10 principles into concrete policies and practices. It provides technical assistance, shares promising practices and facilitates the GCM's Capacity-Building Mechanism, which includes the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Migration Network Hub and the Demand-driven Facility to support GCM-related initiatives in developing effective, rights-based migration policies.

### **How can stakeholders support GCM implementation?**

The Secretary-General's report acknowledges that stakeholders play a vital role in advancing the GCM, contributing diverse perspectives, resources and practical knowledge that enhance migration policies and support a whole-of-society approach. Together, stakeholders bring a diverse range of strengths that not only support the practical aspects of migration governance but also promote social cohesion, counter negative narratives and highlight the positive contributions of migrants to societies. Recognizing their value, the Secretary-General's report encourages national governments to include local authorities in GCM-related delegations and review processes.

### **What is next?**

Looking ahead, the second round of GCM Regional Reviews will remain crucial for assessing progress, sharing practices and identifying challenges in implementing the GCM at the regional level. These will inform the fourth Secretary-General's report, to be released in 2026, ahead of the IMRF. The report will provide an updated global overview of achievements and gaps, including on the two mandates in the first IMRF Progress Declaration, namely the humanitarian recommendations and the use of GCM indicators, ahead of the 2026 IMRF.