

Summary of

GCM Champion countries meeting held on 2 June 2023

The Champion countries initiative held a technical meeting in-person on 2 June 2023 in-person, hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Philippines in Geneva, that was attended by 22 Champion countries. The meeting aimed at moving toward finalizing the latest working arrangements for the Champion countries initiative (Initiative).

Secretariat briefing

The secretariat shared the latest updates including on the preparations for the Regional Reviews and the GCM Talks; rollout of the Network's products: pledging initiative; Capacity Building Mechanism; and upcoming Network events.

Main elements of the discussion

A summary of the discussions on the Champions working modalities and the feedback received on the proposed structure was shared. An alternative solution suggested by Champions was to initiate a rotating co-chairing approach every six months. This approach would aim to maintain an informal working atmosphere for expert and working-level discussions, while ensuring Member States leadership and engagement. To facilitate the discussions, discussions were broken into focus groups to further explore the working arrangements and planning.

- Discussions reconfirmed the importance of preserving the flexibility, informality and inclusivity of the approach that has served the initiative, in keeping with the collaborative and consultative approach.
- On rotational co-chairing approach: a general agreement was expressed on co-chairing model with a six-month duration, with the rotation to be on voluntary basis along the date of entry, with a simple and light ToRs.
- A light workplan as a guiding document for the Initiative was discussed with the goal to leverage collective efforts and achieve shared goals including through:
 - Follow up on relevant processes and meetings especially high levels events/representations, or other state-led processes; joint advocacy and statements, continuing to include references to the GCM in national statements; continuing support by the Network for common messaging was requested.
 - Importance of inter-regional/cross regional consultations in addition to the regional in view of the upcoming regional reviews.
 - Support of peer learning exchange to facilitate sharing of best practices and experiences among Champions.
 - Opportunities to support greater complementarity between the two Compacts (noting GRF this year).
 - Champions highlighted some key opportunities to consider supporting, including the 53rd and 54th sessions of the HRC, the High-level event on the 75th anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration, the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights, the interactive dialogue on the Secretary-General's report on climate, the network's annual meeting, IOM 114th Council, II GRF, GFMD Summit, HLPF, UNGA Third Committee, and SGD Summit.
- Importance of ensuring consistency by maintaining communication and information sharing with colleagues from Geneva, New York and capitals

- A strong emphasis was made on the importance of continuing with the momentum through a series of concrete actions.

Follow-up

It was agreed to finalize the working modalities of the Initiative in the coming weeks. For this aim, the secretariat will revert to the Champions with a draft ToRs and light workplan and prepare for the technical meeting.