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**Draft Concept Note**  
**Informal Cross-Regional Dialogue of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**  
**Champions: Peer Exchange, Implementation and Follow Up**  
**28-30 November 2023 – Accra, Ghana**

## Background

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement at global level, with a holistic and comprehensive approach towards international migration governance and international cooperation.

The essence of the GCM lies in its collective commitment to enhancing collaboration on international migration. It is founded on a shared vision, collective responsibilities, and a mutual recognition that no government can single-handedly address migration's complexities. Effective management of migration's potential and protection against its challenges can only be achieved through bilateral, regional, and global cooperation.

Empowering countries with a comprehensive roadmap of policy options, the GCM tackles the most urgent issues tied to international migration. Moreover, it confers Member States the flexibility to tailor migration policies to their specific contexts and capacities. This framework for cooperation has engendered a common language to address crucial migration concerns and serves as a model for inclusive and rights-based migration policies.

## The GCM Champions Initiative

The Champion countries initiative is a voluntary collective of Member States committed to promoting effective GCM implementation, follow-up, and review. The Champions Initiative provides space for Member States, working with the United Nations Network on Migration, to exchange and share insights, lessons learned, and promising practices aiming to accelerate actions to achieve the GCM objectives and guiding principles and engage in advocacy to that end.

Launched in 2020, the Champion countries community has grown in size and dynamism, playing a critical role in demonstrating support for the GCM – now standing at 33 Member States across the globe – 13 in Africa. During this second phase of GCM implementation, Champions have highlighted the importance of using the Champions country initiative to advance GCM implementation, including preserving strong partnerships, enhancing collective advocacy, and improving the visibility of their efforts and activities.

In January 2023, a first Informal Dialogue of GCM Champion countries from the Middle East, Africa, and Europe brought together technical representatives from these regions in Rabat, Morocco. The objective was to assess best practices, review progress in implementing pledges, and exchange plans for GCM implementation. The event facilitated an open discussion among representatives, promoting peer-learning initiatives and identifying ways to strengthen inter-regional cooperation. The Dialogue highlighted key priorities, such as data management, assistance for distressed migrants, GCM implementation planning, climate change, and combating xenophobia.



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Building on this first Dialogue, the GCM Champion countries from the East and Horn of Africa met in June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya to further unpack specific trends in the East and Horn of Africa region. Participants also exchanged experiences in implementing the GCM at the national level.

## Context

Within the West African sub-region, the use of migrant smugglers is a common feature. In relative terms, intra-Africa migration represented 51 per cent of the total migration originating from African countries and 83 per cent of the total migration towards African countries. In West and Central Africa for example, migration primarily occurs within the sub-region. According to interviews conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the Flow Monitoring Points between January and June 2023, a noteworthy 87% of individuals interviewed were found to be moving within their respective regions. This trend was consistent across all regions, except for North Africa, whose migrants mainly travelled to non-African countries. Indeed, significant numbers of migrants originating from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia live in Europe, while migrants from Egypt and Sudan moved more predominantly to other Arab states.

The most prominent corridors for intra-African migration are predominantly between countries sharing a land border, highlighting how migration on the continent is characterized by short-distance mobility and is, therefore, more often local than global. Migrants originating in West and Central Africa as well as in large parts of Southern and Eastern Africa were mainly living in neighbouring or close African countries. Moreover, the bidirectionality of several intra-Africa corridors reflects the high prevalence of temporary or circular labour migration, such as between Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, and of refugee movements, such as between South Sudan and Uganda. This finding also supports the fact that return migration is an important dimension of mobility in Africa (*IOM, forthcoming Second Edition of Africa Migration Report*).

Furthermore, migration in Africa is largely regular and comparatively little migration from the continent is occurring through irregular channels towards Europe or Gulf countries. Within the West and Central Africa sub-region, smugglers are used for travels both within the region and despite the Free Movement Protocols of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)<sup>1</sup>. Beyond ECOWAS borders, migrant smugglers are also used by West Africans to reach North African countries, especially Libya, Algeria and Morocco, when regular travel options are not accessible. West African migrants interviewed by the UNODC Smuggling of Migrants Observatory mostly reported using smugglers to reach North African countries, from Niger and Mali. Nigerian and Cameroonian migrants who are seeking to reach North Africa and/or Europe often contact smugglers in Northern Nigeria that arrange for their movement as far as Libya or Algeria and beyond.

Since 2013, the number of African migrants moving through Latin American countries to reach the U.S.-Mexico border has been on the rise. While African migration through the Americas is still relatively small in scale, Africa's population is growing at the fastest rate of any continent, and migration is likely to continue to increase. The Migration Policy Institute has released a report detailing this growing trend, including the experiences of African migrants traveling through the Americas and the long-term implications of this pattern. For example, in 2023, there was a notable increase in the number of predominantly Senegalese and Mauritanian migrants arriving in several Latin American countries. Similarly, there is anecdotal information highlighting emerging patterns of migration from Europe and

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<sup>1</sup> [TOCTA Sahel som 2023.pdf \(unodc.org\)](#)



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Central Asia to South America. Many Central Asian countries have established visa-free or visa-on-arrival agreements with South American nations.

Furthermore, it should be noted that Turkey serves as a significant transit hub for Central Asian nationals traveling onward to South America to reach the U.S.-Mexico border. This is facilitated by the robust air connections between Turkey and South American countries, including direct flights to destinations like Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia. It's noteworthy that nationals from Central Asian countries enjoy visa-free entry to Turkey, further enhancing this transit route. These new migration routes through Latin American countries are gaining popularity and visibility through various social media channels, where migrants share their experiences.

In this context, this third Dialogue is being organized, with Champion countries from Latin America, in addition to the Champions from Africa, Middle East and Europe that met in Rabat in January 2023. Given the evolving migration patterns marked by limited available data and predominantly anecdotal evidence, the importance of this third Dialogue is apparent. It presents a timely and relevant platform for Champion countries to leverage the outcomes of prior meetings building on peer exchanges and identifying areas for more robust data sharing across regions. Additionally, it provides a channel for discussing potential solutions and opportunities for extended collaboration to implement the GCM.

This Third Champions Informal Dialogue will be hosted in the West and Central Africa region. Ghana, the host of the Informal Dialogue, is notably one of the first countries to have started to develop a national GCM implementation plan using the Network's six-step guidance, in line with the guiding principles of the GCM and has validated a term of reference for the establishment of a national coordination mechanism to help drive the GCM implementation process. Further to these, Ghana has championed a whole-of-society and a whole-of-government approach to migration management through the elaboration of a National Migration Policy, a National Labour Migration Policy and a Diaspora Engagement Policy.

The Dialogue is an integral part of preparatory process of the second round of GCM reviews.

## Objectives

The dialogue will have the following objectives:

- **Strengthen Partnerships:** Foster collaboration to effectively drive GCM implementation by exploring potential synergies on collective priorities and to bolster regional and inter-regional dialogues to promote cooperation on migration-related issues, including from a human rights perspective.
- **Review progress in the implementation of the GCM from a cross-regional perspective:** The discussion will take stock of GCM implementation. The findings will be submitted to the GCM Regional Review meeting hosted for the Member States in 2024.
- **Enhancing Information Sharing:** Improve the exchange of information among peers on emerging trends, collection of data, and GCM implementation. The aim is to identify valuable lessons among peers, explore opportunities for collaboration on both global and regional and cross regional levels.
- **Share lessons on translating GCM commitments into action on the ground:** Present good examples of integrating the GCM into policies and/or creating dedicated national GCM implementation plans and the tools and support available to Champion countries to accelerate GCM implementation.



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## Expected Outcomes

Strengthen the technical knowledge and understanding of government officials regarding migration trends, policies, practices, tools and experiences in migration governance, in line with the GCM objectives and guiding principles, including and the human rights-based approach.

- Progress, including good practices, and challenges in implementing the GCM within the sub region are shared.
- Participants are equipped with the knowledge and understanding of how to action GCM commitments at national level, drawing on the experiences of countries who have developed national GCM implementation plans.
- Joint Declaration and Report to input into the upcoming GCM Regional Reviews and ahead of the COP 28.

## Participants, venue and date

The dialogue is organized by the Regional UN Network on Migration in West and Central Africa and the Government of Ghana in the framework of the GCM Champion countries initiative. The dialogue will be attended by senior technical representatives responsible for migration/GCM implementation of Champion countries from four regions. Africa, Arab States, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The dialogue will take place in Accra, Ghana on 28 –30 November 2023.

This is made possible through the generous support of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), the Government of Netherlands through the support of Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Union under the Building Migration Partnerships programme and MIRAC.



Government of the Netherlands



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the European Union



**MiRAC**  
MIGRATION RESOURCE  
ALLOCATION COMMITTEE



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## Proposed agenda

Time	Day 1 – 28 November 2023	Moderator
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival and registration	
09:00-10:00am	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>Video message from IOM DG and UN Network Coordinator</p> <p>Remarks by Government of Ghana</p> <p>Remarks by UN Resident Coordinator</p> <p>Remarks by the Co-chairs of the Regional UN Network on Migration for WCA; IOM Regional Director for WCA and OHCHR/WARO Regional Representative</p> <p>Welcome Ceremony Opening</p>	
<b>Group picture and Coffee Break</b>		
10:30-11:15	<p><b>Session I: Setting the Scene</b></p> <p>The aim of the session is to provide a comprehensive overview that sets the stage for the upcoming three-day meeting.</p>	
11:15-12:30	<p><b>Session II: Data collection: Promoting actionable steps for enhanced cross-regional information sharing to accelerate GCM implementation</b></p> <p>The aim of the session is to discuss ways in which to improve migration research, data collection and dissemination, particularly in light of emerging cross-regional migration trends, to inform policy making in line with GCM Objective 1 and the commitments made in the IMRF Progress Declaration.</p> <p><b>Open discussion (40mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To your country/ region what are the most important areas relating to migration data, analysis and research that require cross-regional collaboration and coordination?</li> <li>- How can migration data make a difference in policy making?</li> <li>- Has your country/ region outlined any specific priorities objectives or priority areas?</li> <li>- What kind of measures and good practices have been put in place?</li> <li>- Are there any gaps and how can they be addressed?</li> </ul>	



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Time	Day 1 – 28 November 2023		Moderator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What types of stakeholder and whole-of-government partnerships exist to address these priorities? Role of local governments? What new partnerships are needed?</li> </ul>		
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break		
14:00 – 14:30	<p><b>Session III: Ensuring migrant protection through cross-regional collaboration: Strengthening responses to migrant smuggling, coordinating efforts to combat trafficking in persons, and preventing loss of life.</b></p> <p>The aim of the session is to discuss good practices in relation to providing assistance to migrants in distress and saving lives in line with the commitment made in the IMRF Progress Declaration.</p>		
14:30- 15:15	<p><b>Methodology:</b> Knowledge Café (45 mins)</p> <p><b>Theme 1: Efforts to combat Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To your country/ region what are the most important areas that require cross-regional collaboration and coordination?</li> <li>- What are some key recommendations that can inform the Regional Reviews?</li> <li>- Has your country/ region outlined any specific priorities objectives or priority areas?</li> <li>- What kind of measures and good practices have been put in place to respond to the emerging situation?</li> <li>- Are there any gaps and how can they be addressed?</li> <li>- What types of stakeholder and whole-of-government partnerships exist to address these priorities? what new partnerships are needed?</li> <li>- What are some common approaches, positions and strategies at global level to</li> </ul>	<p><b>Methodology:</b> Knowledge Café (45 mins)</p> <p><b>Theme 2: Saving Lives and Humanitarian Assistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To your country/ region what are the most important areas that require cross-regional collaboration and coordination?</li> <li>- What are some key recommendations that can inform the Regional Reviews?</li> <li>- Has your country/ region outlined any specific priorities objectives or priority areas?</li> <li>- What kind of measures and good practices have been put in place to respond to the emerging situation?</li> <li>- Are there any gaps and how can they be addressed?</li> <li>- What types of stakeholder and whole-of-government partnerships exist to address these priorities? What is the role of local governments? What new partnerships are needed?</li> </ul>	





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Time	Day 1 – 28 November 2023		Moderator
	addressing SOM, that can be adapted and implemented at regional level to enhance effectiveness in addressing migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons?		
15:15 – 15:45	<b>Presentation of the conclusions of the group discussion to the plenary</b>		
15:45-16:00	Coffee break		
16:00-17:00	<p><b>Group Discussions on opportunities for the future: Regular Pathways as a driver for development and protection and cross regional collaboration</b></p> <p>Participants will be divided in groups to discuss how can regular pathways for migration help address skills gaps, promote innovation, and support economic growth while also focusing on the rights of migrant works and their protection. Participants will discuss ways to ensure that labour migration is managed effectively, and that migrant workers are protected and have access to decent work and living conditions. Discussions will also touch upon good practices for effective cooperation and coordination to engaging with diaspora communities which can help to promote investment, trade, and innovation, as well as support social and cultural exchange, as well as new Safe Mobility Offices which are being explored in the regions.</p> <p><b>Open discussion (40mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To your country/ region what are the most important areas that require cross-regional collaboration and coordination?</li> <li>- What are some key recommendations that can inform the Regional Reviews?</li> <li>- Has your country/ region outlined any specific priorities objectives or priority areas?</li> <li>- What kind of measures and good practices have been put in place to respond to the emerging situation?</li> <li>- Are there any gaps and how can they be addressed?</li> <li>- What types of stakeholder and whole-of-government partnerships exist to address these priorities? What new partnerships are needed?</li> </ul>		



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Time	Day 1 – 28 November 2023	Moderator
17:00 – 17:30	<b>Presentation of the conclusions of the group discussion to the plenary</b>	
19:00 – 21:00	Welcome Dinner	

Time	Day 2 – 29 November 2023 – Agenda items	Facilitator		
09:30-10:00	<p><b>Session IV: Fostering cross-regional collaboration for advancing the protection of the rights of migrants, in particular the application of anti-discrimination dimensions in migration and detention</b></p> <p>The aim of the session is to discuss the multifaceted dimensions of the protection of the rights of migrants along migration routes, including in detention, as well as protection from discrimination, gaining deeper insights into the challenges faced by marginalized communities. Drawing from real-life case studies and research, discussions will seek to inform migration policies that fosters an environment where migrants are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their origin, nationality, or migration status, in line with Objective 17.</p>			
10:00- 10:45	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Methodology:</b> Knowledge Café (45 mins)</p> <p><b>Theme 1: Alternative to detention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To your country/ region what are the most important areas that require cross-regional collaboration and coordination?</li> <li>- What are some key recommendations that can inform the Regional Reviews?</li> <li>- Has your country/ region outlined any specific priorities objectives or priority areas?</li> <li>- What kind of measures and good practices have been put in place to respond to the emerging situation?</li> <li>- Are there any gaps and how can they be addressed?</li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Methodology:</b> Knowledge Café (45 mins)</p> <p><b>Theme 2: eliminating all forms of discrimination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To your country/ region what are the most important areas that require cross-regional collaboration and coordination?</li> <li>- What are some key recommendations that can inform the Regional Reviews?</li> <li>- Has your country/ region outlined any specific priorities objectives or priority areas?</li> <li>- What kind of measures and good practices have been put in place to respond to the emerging situation?</li> <li>- Are there any gaps and how can they be addressed?</li> <li>- What types of stakeholder and whole-of-government</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Methodology:</b> Knowledge Café (45 mins)</p> <p><b>Theme 1: Alternative to detention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To your country/ region what are the most important areas that require cross-regional collaboration and coordination?</li> <li>- What are some key recommendations that can inform the Regional Reviews?</li> <li>- Has your country/ region outlined any specific priorities objectives or priority areas?</li> <li>- What kind of measures and good practices have been put in place to respond to the emerging situation?</li> <li>- Are there any gaps and how can they be addressed?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Methodology:</b> Knowledge Café (45 mins)</p> <p><b>Theme 2: eliminating all forms of discrimination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To your country/ region what are the most important areas that require cross-regional collaboration and coordination?</li> <li>- What are some key recommendations that can inform the Regional Reviews?</li> <li>- Has your country/ region outlined any specific priorities objectives or priority areas?</li> <li>- What kind of measures and good practices have been put in place to respond to the emerging situation?</li> <li>- Are there any gaps and how can they be addressed?</li> <li>- What types of stakeholder and whole-of-government</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What types of stakeholder and whole-of-government partnerships exist to address these priorities? What new partnerships are needed?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>partnerships exist to address these priorities? Role of local governments? What new partnerships are needed?</li> </ul>	
<b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	<b>Presentation of the conclusions of the group discussion to the plenary</b>		
<b>11:15- 11:30</b>	Coffee break		
<b>11:30- 12:30</b>	<p><b>Group Discussions on opportunities for the future: Responding better together to human mobility in the context of climate change and mobility nexus.</b></p> <p>Participants will be divided in groups to discuss the good practices to address the challenges and opportunities related to human mobility in the context of climate change and support resilience, loss and damage, adaptation and mitigation efforts building on the commitments to mobilize Champions on the thematic ahead of COP 28.</p> <p><b>Open discussion (40 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To your country/ region what are the most important areas that require cross-regional collaboration and coordination?</li> <li>- What are some key recommendations that can inform the Regional Reviews?</li> <li>- Has your country/ region outlined any specific priorities objectives or priority areas?</li> <li>- What kind of measures and good practices have been put in place to respond to the emerging situation?</li> <li>- Are there any gaps and how can they be addressed, including in terms of data?</li> <li>- What types of stakeholder and whole-of-government partnerships exist to address these priorities? Roles of local governments? What new partnerships are needed?</li> </ul>		
<b>12:30- 13:00</b>	<b>Presentation of the conclusions of the group discussion to the plenary</b>		
<b>13:00 –14:00</b>	Lunch break		
<b>14:00-16:00</b>	<p><b>Session V: Accelerating National GCM Implementation</b></p> <p>The aim of the session is to exchange practices related to integrating the GCM into national planning, and the support available from the UN Network on Migration.</p>		



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	<p>Open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the GCM reflected in national or regional planning or policy framework?</li> <li>• Has your country adopted a national GCM implementation plan? Are there plans to do so?</li> <li>• Has your country mainstreamed the GCM in development planning and SDG reporting?</li> </ul>	
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	Coffee break	
<b>18:00- 20:00</b>	Cultural Event and Reception for the International Community	

Time	Day 3 – 30 November 2023 – Agenda items	Facilitator
<b>09:00-10:30</b>	<p><b>Group Discussions on Regional and Cross Regional and sub-regional progress in the implementation of the GCM.</b> Participants will be divided in groups to discuss preparations for the upcoming Regional Reviews and discuss how the outcomes of the informal dialogue can best inform the Regional Reviews.</p> <p><b>Open discussion (40mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are some key messages and recommendations from this cross-regional Dialogue that should inform the Regional Review meetings hosted for the Member States of your respective UN Regional Economic Commissions?</li> <li>- How can Champion countries further support the Review Process?</li> <li>- What types of stakeholder and whole-of-government partnerships exist to address these cross-regional priorities? What new partnerships are needed?</li> </ul>	
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Presentation of the conclusions of the group discussion to the plenary</b>	
<b>11:00- 11:15</b>	Coffee break	
<b>11:15-12:30</b>	<p><b>Conclusions and recap of the key takeaways</b> The session aims at revisiting the key takeaways and lessons learned from the dialogue with the goal of summarizing the essential insights gathered throughout the discussions for the consolidation of a Joint Declaration and Report to input into the upcoming GCM Regional Reviews and ahead of the COP 28.</p>	
<b>12:15 –14:00</b>	Lunch break	