

Summary of GCM Champion Countries meeting held on 15 November 2022

The Champion countries held a technical meeting on 15 November 2022 that was attended by over 40 participants representing 22 Champions, supported by the Network secretariat. The meeting aimed to exchange views on the following steps to leverage the Champion countries initiative (Initiative) in the next phase of the GCM implementation, follow-up, and review. The meeting drew on a discussion note prepared by the secretariat which summarized earlier inputs from the Champions and laid out several ideas for the way forward.

Secretariat briefing

The Champions were updated on the Network's Work Plan 2022-24, including the focus on the regional reviews, support to country-level GCM implementation, and launching a process of broad, inclusive dialogues on the Progress Declaration mandates to the Secretary-General regarding indicators and support to missing migrant/migrants in situations of distress (PD).

Champions were also briefed on the importance of the Migration Network Hub and the MPTF.

With all of the above, there was significant potential for Champions to play active leadership roles.

Main elements of the discussion

- Champion countries overwhelmingly reiterated their commitment to the Initiative, taking it to the next level through a more structured approach while preserving its overall informality and flexibility. The proposed direction in the discussion note was appreciated, with some details to be worked out in the coming weeks.
- On the working arrangements:
 - There was general support for creating a steering group on a rotation basis (4 to 6 months) overseeing the overall direction of the Initiative, while preserving its flexibility and informality.
 - Champions raised questions about the composition and membership of the steering group and recommended observing regional balance in the composition of such Steering group, and asked the secretariat to present a proposal to this end.
 - There was interest in forming sub-groups on a regional basis, particularly in the context of the forthcoming regional reviews. Some suggested the creation of sub-groups on specific priority areas. All agreed on the need not to create heavy mechanisms.
 - Champions voiced support to have a light work plan to be updated and adjusted along the way. Such a workplan would include activities and milestones to improve coordination and facilitate the group's planning and its activities. Champions requested the secretariat to draft a proposal for the work plan.
- Some Champions also called to have representatives of civil society organizations as advisors to benefit from a broader spectrum of ideas and inputs. Others called instead to keep the Champions' platform as a Member States-led initiative while finding positive engagement opportunities with relevant stakeholders.

- There was appetite among the Champions to engage actively in discussion on the regional reviews, building on the first round of such reviews in 2020/21.
- Champions advanced several ideas around strengthening communications among themselves as well as externally, including developing a common communication campaign for International Migrants Day 2022.
- Separately, the representative of Kenya announced a contribution to the M-MPTF of USD 50,000, making Kenya the first African country to contribute to the Fund. A delegation made the point that advocating for the Fund should be a priority for the Champions.

Follow-up

The secretariat will revert to the Champions, imminently, with proposals for selecting a steering group, on a light workplan, and on options for communications campaign to highlight the forthcoming International Migrants Day.