



Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

United Nations Network on Migration

4th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, 19 October 2022: 10 – 12h (CEST)

Migration MPTF Chair Opening Remarks – Consultative Forum

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

I would like to warmly welcome you to the third Consultative Forum of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Launched in 2019, the Fund is a unique vehicle that brings the GCM to life; contributes to the development of an ever-growing portfolio of the positive impacts of Compact implementation; and supports UN system-wide coherence, in partnership with governments and stakeholders.

As of today, twelve joint programmes are being implemented, covering a broad swathe of Compact objectives and reaching into every corner of the globe.

That we have come this far is thanks to the generous support of a broad group of member states, including Germany, the UK, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, France, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Ireland, the Philippines, Luxembourg, Thailand, Cyprus, Turkey and Bangladesh.

The Fund's design takes into account more than the need to align itself with the Compact's 360-degree approach. At every step of the way, the Fund is also committed to diversity.

This means diversity of partnerships among participating UN organizations, government line ministries, local authorities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

It means, too, diversity of interventions, from policy level technical assistance to pilot interventions at the local level.

And it means diversity of targets, encompassing beneficiaries at all stages of the migration cycle.

Three years since our launch, we are starting to see some promising early results. For example:

- A new Resolution on Migration Policy and associated Action Plan was adopted by the Parliament of North Macedonia in December 2021.
- Cross-border social cohesion was enhanced in the Parrots' Beak border area of Guinea-Liberia-Sierra Leone through strengthening security and increased information sharing among institutions and communities.



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- Thanks to the BRIDGE joint programme in the Philippines, the Migrant Resource Centre was operationalized, and the Reintegration Advisor – an online portal containing information to help migrants navigate their return and reintegration – was established.

However, these twelve joint programmes only scratch the surface as the demand for the Fund remains very strong and outweighs the supply.

To date, the Fund has received 119 concept notes from over 80 countries. In addition to those already funded, 36 of these proposals have been positively assessed by the Steering Committee and constitute the Migration MPTF pipeline.

The pipeline is still growing and full of interesting ideas. Just to name a few:

- The promotion of evidence-based migration governance for maximizing development potential of migration in Serbia;
- Strengthening protection, safety and wellbeing of unaccompanied minors and separated children in Zimbabwe;
- Enhancing socioeconomic inclusion and access to comprehensive quality healthcare and protection of refugees and migrants and receiving communities in Lima, Peru; and
- Improving social cohesion and fair access to services for migrants in Morocco.

Colleagues,

The first International Migration Review Forum was a success. It was encouraging to witness such reinvigorated political investment and willingness to collectively further the implementation of the Global Compact, putting migrants at the center of our efforts.

This important milestone for the Global Compact was also a key moment for the Fund, as the Progress Declaration reaffirmed the role and relevance of the Fund and encouraged Member States to contribute.

It also presents us with an opportunity to reflect as to whether we can be even more effective in supporting priorities identified by Member States and stakeholders during the Forum.

While the Fund is already contributing to many of the recommended actions from the Progress Declaration, we have also identified a number of areas we need to strengthen.

First, the Fund will aim to strengthen its portfolio with initiatives focusing on climate change adaptation and resilience strengthening; as well as initiatives with a health component, in order to address obstacles faced by migrants in accessing essential health care services.



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Second, the Fund will seek to do more to contribute to preventing loss of life in transit. As the Fund is a development, and not emergency fund, this could be done by encouraging joint programmes to have components addressing humanitarian needs of migrants in distress, or by strengthening international cooperation on missing migrants and building national capacities to provide assistance, thus building on one of the key mandates emerging from the Progress Declaration.

Third, the Fund will further strengthen the child-sensitivity principle by augmenting its portfolio of joint programmes focusing on child migrants and by developing and applying a robust child sensitivity marker comparable to the human rights and gender markers already in place.

Fourth, the Fund will reinforce its attention to the whole-of-society guiding principle both by monitoring closely what share of its resources are actually channeled to civil society organizations and by developing guidelines on how to meaningfully engage with civil society partners.

And lastly, with the initial Investment Plan coming to an end in December, the Fund has embarked on an external evaluation to identify our achievements and lessons learned. The findings will allow us to build on and adjust the way we work in terms of our strategic vision, and our operational and programmatic approaches.

The emphasis of the evaluation is not on results delivered by the joint programmes because each will conduct an independent evaluation upon completion. Rather, the specific objective is to assess the sustainability of the Fund, its governance structure, its alignment with the GCM guiding principles, the quality and diversity of the overall programme portfolio and the contribution of the Fund to strengthening partnerships in the field of migration.

The Fund's steering committee should be in a position to review the evaluation's findings when it meet early in 2023.

But the Fund is also under a constant process of self-review.

Our results framework, for example, emphasizes alignment with the SDGs; programmatic alignment to the GCM guiding principles and commitment to sustainability and partnerships; and operational effectiveness and performance.

By outlining specific results and indicators to monitor and assess performance under each of these three areas, the Fund holds itself accountable to both donors and joint programme beneficiaries.

To date, we have performed well on all indicators except for those related to financial resource mobilization.

In 2021, the Steering Committee set a total capitalization target of USD 70 million by the IMRF. There was then a concerted effort through various advocacy activities towards this target.



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The pledges made by Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Denmark, France and Luxembourg in the run up to and during the IMRF brought the total capitalization to approximately USD35 million.

While this only met half of the 70m target – a disappointment – there are reasons to remain optimistic, not least the overall feedback on the performance and relevance of the Fund was positive, as reflected in the Progress Declaration.

From the onset, we have strived for the Fund donor base to reflect diversity and embody the spirit of partnership of the GCM. No matter the size of their contribution, our donors are, in effect, stating that they believe in the purpose of the Fund and they have faith in its design. This community – steadily growing – is of inestimable value in its encouragement of us to deliver to the highest possible standard and in its encouragement of others to likewise contribute.

We need to continue broadening the base and must acknowledge that the geographic coverage remains incomplete. Yet, we also need to measure how far we have come to date.

To that end, if we take as a basis of comparison the 12 Multi-Partner Trust Funds of comparable size and scope (global funds with a capitalization level over USD 25 million), only the Peacebuilding Fund has received contributions from more Member States. No other has a broader donor base than the Migration MPTF. The Migration MPTF's current donor base is already well above the average number of donors of the remaining 11 Funds (seven).

However, for the Fund truly to deliver, the donor base needs to continue growing and the USD70 million target cannot be allowed to dwindle into the aspirational. I call on those yet to contribute to do so. I call on donors, current and potential, to develop imaginative ways to pool resources and generate matching pledges.

With this appeal and these opening comments, it is now my great pleasure to hand over today's moderator, Ms Matsuyama, who will introduce our distinguished panellists, before opening the floor up to a general discussion.

Thank you.