

Second Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region

Concept Note

The purpose of this concept note is to propose the modalities for the **second Regional Review Meeting on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Region**.

The Regional Review Meeting will be held on **11 March 2024**, back to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, at the **Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland**, and will consist of a Multi-stakeholder Hearing, 08:30-10:00 CET, followed by the Intergovernmental Conference, 10:00-18:00 CET.

Context

Recognizing that most international migration takes place within regions, Member States called upon relevant sub-regional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, to review the implementation of the GCM at the regional level beginning in 2020, and every four years thereafter¹.

The first review of the implementation of the GCM by the Member States of UNECE Region was held virtually on 12-13 November 2020. The resulting [summary report](#) informed the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) that took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 17-20 May 2022 and resulted in the adoption of the IMRF Progress Declaration, by General Assembly Resolution [76/266](#)².

Scope of Regional Review in the UNECE Region

Pursuant to the decision of the [UNECE Executive Committee at its 128th meeting on 15 May 2023](#), UNECE is convening, jointly with IOM, as the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration (Network), an Intergovernmental Conference to review the implementation of the GCM in the UNECE Region.

The Network will support Member States in their regional reviews. The [framework for the Regional Reviews](#)³ proposes ways in which the reviews can highlight regional dynamics and enhance regional cooperation on GCM implementation.

¹ [A/RES/73/195, Para. 50](#); [A/RES/73/326, Para. 15](#)

² [A/RES/76/266](#)

³ https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources_files/Regional%20Reviews%20Framework.pdf

The Regional Review Meeting in the UNECE Region will:

- a. Enable Member States and other relevant stakeholders to assess GCM implementation progress and any identified gaps and challenges, based on the outcomes of the first round of Regional Reviews.
- b. Enable Member States and other relevant stakeholders to assess regional progress and challenges in implementing the recommended actions set out in the [Progress Declaration](#) of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) 2022, and to formulate critical findings and recommendations to inform the 2026 IMRF.
- c. Discuss existing initiatives and experiences focused on strengthening the linkages between the GCM and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant global and regional frameworks.
- d. Serve as a space to strengthen regional, sub-regional and cross-regional cooperation on migration.

The organization of the Regional Review

The Regional Review Meeting will convene representatives of the UNECE Member States; intergovernmental organizations; United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, and funds; and all relevant stakeholders from the UNECE region, including migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities, and communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, and the media.

The Regional Review Meeting will build on relevant discussions of subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations that took place in the framework of the GCM Regional Reviews, including [GCM Talks](#), whose outcomes have been submitted on the [Network Hub](#).

The Regional Review Meeting, on 11 March 2024, includes an Intergovernmental Conference preceded by a Multi-stakeholder Hearing.

The Intergovernmental Conference on 11 March will consist of an opening segment, followed by four thematic sessions which will provide Member States and relevant stakeholders with a space for discussion and to present and review progress on the GCM, in line with the 360-degree vision of international migration which recognizes that a comprehensive approach is needed to optimize the overall benefits of migration.

The thematic sessions will be organized on the same basis as the four roundtables of the IMRF⁴. For each thematic session, a Member State speaker will start the discussion. The discussion will be moderated by a stakeholder representative. The Intergovernmental Conference will conclude with a closing segment.

<i>Session 1</i>	<i>Objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18</i>
<i>Session 2</i>	<i>Objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21</i>
<i>Session 3</i>	<i>Objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22</i>
<i>Session 4</i>	<i>Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23</i>

⁴ [A/RES/73/326, Para. 21](#)

High-level representatives of two Member States will be elected to co-chair the Intergovernmental Conference. Member States are invited to express their interest in co-chairing the Conference. The Co-Chairs will deliver remarks during the Opening and the Closing. Member States are also invited to express their interest in providing a keynote speaker for one of the four sessions by reaching out to GCMReviewsUNECE@iom.int.

Stakeholders are invited to express their interest in acting as the Rapporteur who will report back from the stakeholder consultation, and in serving as moderator for one of the thematic sessions during the intergovernmental meeting.

The selection of speakers will be done by the Network with due regard to geographic and gender balance. To guide the interactive debate during the four thematic sessions, the Network will prepare a short background note in advance for each thematic session.

To support Member States in preparing for the Meeting, the Network is proposing guiding questions to collect additional feedback on the implementation of the GCM; please refer to Annex 1.

Multi-stakeholder Consultations, Multi-stakeholder Hearing and Rapporteur

The Network will support the organization of two Multi-stakeholder Consultations for stakeholders in the UNECE region prior to GCM Regional Review Meeting to identify priority areas and to prepare key messages to be deliberated at the Regional Review Meeting. There is more information in separate communication and on the website [here](#).

The Multi-stakeholder Hearing is taking place at 08:30-10:00 CET, ahead of the Intergovernmental Conference of the GCM Regional Review.

The Network is extending a call for expressions of interest to serve as the Rapporteur. More information [here](#). The Rapporteur, with the support of the Network, will be responsible for contributing to agenda development for Consultations and Multi-stakeholder Hearing, preparing a draft summary report with inputs from the two Multi-stakeholder Consultations, and briefing Member States during the opening segment of the Intergovernmental Conference on the outcomes of the Multi-stakeholder Consultations and Hearing.

High-level Panel on Regular Migration Pathways

The Coordinator of the Network will host a High-level Panel discussion on the topic of pathways for regular migration on 11 March 2024, 13:30 – 14:30 CET. More information will be posted on the [Network's website](#) in due course.

Outcome of the Regional Review

The Regional Review Meeting will result in a summary report that will synthesize inputs from the discussions at the Regional Review Meeting itself, including the preceding Multi-stakeholder Hearing, responses to the guiding questions (as per Annex 1), outcomes of GCM Talks and inputs to the [online Discussion Spaces](#). The outcome report will be submitted to UNECE Member States no later than 30 days after the Regional Review Meeting for their comments. The report will be published on the [Network's website](#). The report will also serve as input to the 2026 IMRF.

As requested in General Assembly Resolution 76/266, the President of the General Assembly will hold a plenary meeting of the General Assembly in the second half of 2024 in order to consider the outcomes of all regional reviews, presented by the Coordinator of the Network.

Documentation

- a. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: [A/RES/73/195](#);
- b. Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums: [A/RES/73/326](#);
- c. Framework on the preparation and organization of the Regional Reviews of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources_files/Regional_Reviews_Framework.pdf ;
- d. Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Economic Commission for Europe Region – Provisional Agenda: https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Draft%20provisional%20agenda_GCM%20Regional%20Review_approved.pdf ;
- e. Dedicated webpage on GCM Regional Review for UNECE Region: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/europe-and-north-america-2024> ;

Logistics

A Logistics Note will follow upon registration. The Logistics Note will also be posted on the Network's website: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/europe-and-north-america-2024>.

Annex 1: Guiding questions for UNECE Member States to prepare for the Regional Review

The UN Network on Migration (Network) is proposing guiding questions to assist UNECE Member States in preparing for the second Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), scheduled to take place on 11 March 2024 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

In doing so, the Network builds on the findings and recommendations outlined in the summary report of the first Regional Review of the implementation of the GCM for Member States and with participation of relevant stakeholders of the UNECE Region⁵. The Network further takes into account the recommended actions to accelerate the implementation of the GCM as outlined in the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Progress Declaration⁶. Significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the GCM across the UNECE Region, yet participants to the first Regional Review were unanimous in expressing a need for strengthened regional and global cooperation in advancing its objectives and guiding principles, a sentiment reiterated in the first global review of the GCM, the IMRF.

In preparing for the second Regional Review Meeting of the GCM, Member States are encouraged to prepare and submit feedback to the guiding questions listed below. Considering the limited speaking slots during the one-day intergovernmental meeting, Member States are encouraged to submit their written inputs **one week** ahead of the meeting to GCMReviewsUNECE@iom.int. The submissions will be posted on the [UN Network on Migration website](#).

- a. Has your government developed a GCM national implementation plan or integrated the GCM and its guiding principles into existing frameworks, plans and policies? If so, please elaborate on the process. If not, please indicate if your government has plans to do so, and what the envisaged process is.
- b. How has or will your government integrate the recommended actions to accelerate the implementation of the GCM as set out in the IMRF 2022 Progress Declaration into their relevant national policies and plans and reflected in their engagements in relevant international fora (e.g. High-Level Political Forum, Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, COP Climate Change Conference, etc.)? Furthermore, please indicate how the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches were implemented and/or advanced in this regard.
- c. Please list some examples of achievements, promising practices and lessons learned that relate to national, inter- and sub-regional collaboration to the implementation of the GCM.
- d. What are the main gaps and challenges to existing inter- and cross-regional collaboration on the implementation of the GCM?
- e. Outline areas (GCM objectives and/or guiding principles) where the region would benefit from strengthened cooperation in terms of finance, capacity-building, policy advice, data gathering and analysis, technology, multi-stakeholder partnerships, etc.

⁵ [unece - regional review of the gcm - summary report final updated.pdf](#)

⁶ [A/RES/76/266](#)