

# Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

## CONCEPT NOTE

(August 2024)<sup>1</sup>

4-6 February 2025  
Bangkok, Thailand

### I. Introduction

The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM) is the global guiding document that expresses Member States collective commitment to improving cooperation on international migration. Its adoption and endorsement, in 2018, marked the first time that Member States committed, within the auspices of the United Nations, to a comprehensive 360-degree vision of international migration, grounded on international law, that turns their international commitments, through its 23 objectives, its shared vision and cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles,<sup>2</sup> into concrete action to enhance international cooperation on all aspects of international migration (see Annex for the list of objectives of the GCM).

Recognizing that most international migration is regional in nature, the GCM invited, among others, regional economic commissions to review its implementation within their respective regions, beginning in 2020.

In response to this mandate, the [first Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review](#) was held in Bangkok, Thailand and online from 10 to 12 March 2021. A total of 31 members and associated members, 2 observers, 1 other United Nations member State, several intergovernmental organizations and United Nations entities, and about 44 stakeholder groups attended the intergovernmental meeting. Member States adopted a report of the meeting, including a Chair's summary which provides a summary of the deliberations and recommendations. ESCAP, in partnership with the Regional UN Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific (Regional Network), drafted the [Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020](#), which provided the basis for several parliamentary and information papers submitted for consideration to ESCAP member States at the intergovernmental meeting. In addition, ESCAP and the Regional Network provided support for five stakeholder consultations in the lead-up to the intergovernmental meeting, and they also facilitated stakeholder participation in the meeting itself.

ESCAP and the Regional Network are organizing the second Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review, to be held from 4 to 6 February 2025, using the ESCAP intergovernmental platform. This concept note has been informed by the 2020 [Note on the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact](#) and the 2023 [Framework on the preparation and organization of the Regional Reviews of the GCM](#), both issued by the Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration.

### II. Mandate

<sup>1</sup> This concept note has been prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Regional UN Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific, of which ESCAP is a member, to inform ESCAP member States and other stakeholders about the preparations and planned organization of the second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, to take place at ESCAP from 4 to 6 February 2025.

<sup>2</sup> For the list of GCM objectives, see the Annex. For the shared vision, see paragraphs 8-15 of General Assembly resolution 73/195. The cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles are as follows: (a) people-centred; (b) international cooperation; (c) national sovereignty; (d) rule of law and due process; (e) sustainable development; (f) human rights; (g) gender-responsive; (h) child-sensitive; (i) whole-of-government approach; and (j) whole-of-society approach.

In General Assembly resolution 73/195, paragraph 48, Member States committed to “review the progress made at the local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.” They also agreed that for follow-up and review, intergovernmental measures should be used.

In paragraph 50 of the said resolution, Member States invited “relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations regional economic commissions or regional consultative processes, to review the implementation of the GCM within the respective regions, beginning in 2020, alternating with discussions at the global level at a four-year interval, in order to effectively inform each edition of the International Migration Review Forum, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

In General Assembly resolution 73/326, paragraph 9, Member States requested “the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration (the network), to assist, upon request by Member States, in the preparation and organization of the regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact.” That resolution also reiterated the invitation to regional economic commissions, and others, to review the implementation of the Global Compact (paragraph 10).

In General Assembly resolution 76/266, paragraphs 17 and 68, member States took note, with appreciation, of the regional and national reviews, and reiterated the invitation to the regional economic commissions, and others, to review the progress made in the implementation of the GCM at all levels.

To respond to these mandates, ESCAP and the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific are organizing the second Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review process, starting in 2024 and culminating in an intergovernmental meeting using the ESCAP intergovernmental platform at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok from 4 to 6 February 2025.<sup>3</sup>

## II. Objectives

The second Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review will provide an opportunity for ESCAP member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to:

- a. Take stock of progress made with regard to the 360-degree implementation of the 23 objectives of the GCM in the Asia-Pacific region since the first Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review;
- b. Identify key challenges, opportunities, gaps and emerging issues, as well as promising practices and lessons learned related to the implementation of the GCM in Asia and the Pacific;
- c. Discuss regional priorities and potential areas for regional cooperation on international migration in line with the vision and guiding principles of the GCM;
- d. Compile resource requirements, capacity-building needs, policy advice, data gathering needs, technology and partnerships that are required for the full implementation of the GCM at the national and regional levels; and
- e. Facilitate the formulation of key findings and recommendations to inform the 2026 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

The second Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review will build on the first round of GCM Regional Reviews and in particular the first Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review and its outcome document, as well as the International Migration Review Forum and its Progress Declaration.

<sup>3</sup> According to ESCAP, Asia and the Pacific consists of the following 5 subregions: <https://www.unescap.org/subregional-office>.

The review will adopt an inclusive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and will provide an opportunity for ESCAP members States and relevant stakeholders to review all aspects of the GCM, according to its vision and its cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles.<sup>4</sup>

Since the GCM is firmly rooted in the 2030 Agenda, the regional review will also discuss how the implementation of the GCM objectives will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### III. Date and Venue

The second Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review will take place at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand from 4 to 6 February 2025.

### IV. Meeting Website

All information relevant to the Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review (including preparatory activities), will be posted on the ESCAP website: [here](#)

Further information can also be found on the website of the United Nations Network on Migration: [here](#)

### V. Participation

The second Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review will convene representatives of ESCAP members and associated members; intergovernmental organizations; United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds; non-governmental organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders<sup>5</sup> from the Asia and Pacific region.

### VII. Elements and Format

The Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review process aims to consist of:

2024 (Jan - Dec.)	a. Drafting of the <a href="#">Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024</a> , to be launched on International Migrants Day (18 December 2024)
Second half of 2024	b. Working with ESCAP subregional offices to have the topic of migration, as appropriate, included in subregional <a href="#">SDG Forums</a> in Asia and the Pacific, held in the second half of 2024, in preparation for the 2025 Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development
2024-2025	c. Convening of <a href="#">stakeholder consultations</a> in the lead-up to the Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review (2024—2025) and participation of relevant stakeholders in the intergovernmental meeting in 2025 (and possibly a pre-IGM CSO Forum) <sup>6</sup>
2024-2025	d. Discussion with <a href="#">champion countries</a> in Asia and the Pacific <sup>7</sup> in the lead-up to the Regional Review (time permitting)
2024-2025	e. Participation in <a href="#">multi-stakeholder consultations</a> organized by the Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration, as appropriate

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution 73/195.

<sup>5</sup> As per the GCM, this group will include 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, the media and other relevant stakeholders (see General Assembly resolution 73/195, paragraph 44).

<sup>6</sup> More information on stakeholder consultations is forthcoming.

<sup>7</sup> The following are GCM champion countries in Asia and the Pacific: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, and Türkiye.

2024-2025	f. Participation in any <u>GCM talks</u> relevant for the second Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review and organized by the Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration
4-6 February 2025	g. Convening of Second Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review ( <u>intergovernmental meeting</u> )
2025-2026	h. <u>Preparation for IMRF 2026</u> , including submission of “outcome” to the IMRF (tbc), organization of Asia-Pacific side event(s) at IMRF (tbc), participation of Chair of IGM in IMRF as part of high-level panel (tbc) as well as input to the report of the Secretary-General for the IMRF 2026. (more can be added later)

The intergovernmental meeting will consist of a general debate, allowing member States and other relevant stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to take stock of GCM implementation, covering all 23 objectives, and interactive thematic round-table sessions.

A set of guiding questions proposed by the UN Network on Migration for the second Regional Review meetings is presented in Annex 1. Member States are invited to review these questions and are encouraged to submit written responses by 28 January 2025 (at least one week prior to the intergovernmental meeting) by writing to [escap-sdd@un.org](mailto:escap-sdd@un.org). The responses will be posted on the meeting website and will help to document the achievements and progress made by member states in the implementation of the Global Compact.

The thematic round tables will offer discussions, organized along the lines of the four round tables of the International Migration Review Forum<sup>8</sup> with a focus on priorities for Asia and the Pacific.

Round table	GCM Objectives
One	2, 5, 6, 12 and 18
Two	4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21
Three	14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22
Four	1, 3, 7, 17 and 23

Keynote speakers, panellists and moderators of the thematic round tables will be invited with due regard to geographic and gender balance, and with a view to the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach of the GCM. Adequate opportunity will be provided for the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders (as above), as well as other regional and subregional processes, platforms and organizations, including regional consultative processes and regional economic cooperation and integration processes. A short background note with guiding questions will be prepared in advance for each round table to guide the interactive debate.

The meeting will be informed by the Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024 (forthcoming), prepared by ESCAP and the Regional Network. A maximum of two parliamentary papers will be drafted, based on the Migration Report, for consideration by member States.

ESCAP member States and other participants will be invited to organize side events addressing the implementation of GCM objectives.

In preparation for the Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review, there will also be outreach to the public, and a separate media plan will be drafted with involvement of relevant Regional Network communication teams.

<sup>8</sup> See paragraph 21.b. of General Assembly resolution 73/326 and the annex to this document.

## VIII. Expected Outcome

ESCAP member States attending the Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review are expected to consider adopting a report of the meeting. The report will inform the International Migration Review Forum in 2026.<sup>9</sup>

An information note, focusing on the logistics of the meeting, will be prepared closer to the meeting. In addition, ESCAP, with support from the Regional Network will brief the ESCAP Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) on the preparations for the meeting in due course.

## IX. Related Documents

[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (A/RES/70/1)

[New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#) (A/RES/71/1)

[Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (E/ESCAP/GCM/PREP/6)

[Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (A/RES/73/195)

[Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums](#) (A/RES/73/326)

[Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum](#) (A/RES/76/266)

[Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (ESCAP/GCM/2021/3)

[Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020](#) (ST/ESCAP/2801)

[Note on the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact](#)

[2023 Framework on the preparation and organization of the Regional Reviews of the GCM](#)

Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024 (forthcoming)

<sup>9</sup> See paragraph 49 of General Assembly resolution 73/195 and paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 73/326.

## X. Timeline (tentative)\*

	2024												2025			
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April
Preparation for IGM																
Stakeholder consultations																
Drafting of APMR 2024 EGM: June; Launch: Dec.)																
Possible CSO Forum (3 February 2025)																
Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review (4-6 February 2025)																
Participation in SDG Subregional Forums (Asia-Pacific) (if applicable; date tbc)																

\*Participation in GCM Talks and stakeholder consultations organized by the Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration, as well as discussions with GCM champion countries and other related activities will be added, once dates have been confirmed.

## **X. Annex 1.**

### **Guiding questions for ESCAP member States to prepare for the Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review**

ESCAP and the Regional UN Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific are proposing guiding questions to assist member States in preparing for the Second Asia-Pacific GCM Regional Review.

Member States are invited to review these questions and are encouraged to submit written responses by 28 January 2025 (one week prior to the intergovernmental meeting) by writing to [escap-sdd@un.org](mailto:escap-sdd@un.org). The responses will be posted on the meeting website and will help document the achievements and progress made by member states in the implementation of the Global Compact.

- 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.

## **XI. Annex 2.**

### **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration - Objectives for safe, orderly and regular migration (GA resolution 73/195)**

1.	Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
2.	Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
3.	Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
4.	Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
5.	Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
6.	Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
7.	Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
8.	Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9.	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10.	Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
11.	Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
12.	Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
13.	Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
14.	Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
15.	Provide access to basic services for migrants
16.	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
17.	Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
18.	Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
19.	Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
20.	Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
21.	Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
22.	Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
23.	Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration