

Annex: 2021 Updates to Canada’s submission of voluntary inputs

Canada appreciates the opportunity to update its [voluntary written inputs](#) that were submitted ahead of the regional reviews. Canada’s migration system is in a constant state of evolution, informed by best practices and evidence-based analysis, in alignment with Canada’s priorities. The GCM is a valuable framework for considering Canada’s responses to new migration challenges, such as those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this submission, Canada will provide updated examples of its progress to date in advancing GCM objectives and principles. These are:

<p>Pandemic response <i>Objectives: 1, 5, 6, 7, 15, 17, 23</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Building additional regular pathways •Identifying and reducing vulnerabilities, including via vaccine access •Adapting settlement services to online/phone delivery •Facilitating an exchange on migration health in the Americas •International Assistance and Humanitarian response
<p>Promoting balanced narratives <i>Objectives: 16, 17, 23</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Launching the <i>It Takes a Community campaign</i>, a multi-stakeholder effort
<p>Gender-responsive migration management <i>Objectives: 1, 16, 23</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Following up on the Canada-EU Migration Platform Event •Extending supports to racialized newcomer women •International Assistance programming •Advocating for this principle internationally •Funding research and resources to support the identification of challenges and help find solutions
<p>Promoting integration and social cohesion <i>Objectives: 1, 3, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Working to achieve outcomes-focused settlement programming •Funding local immigration partnerships for initiatives that promote anti-racism •Chairing the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) Integration Working Group and other international engagement efforts •International Assistance programming
<p>Capacity-building to improve migration management in the Americas <i>Objectives: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 23</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Engagement with regional partners •Supporting migration and protection related capacity building projects in the Americas •International Assistance programming
<p>Responding to the needs of Venezuelan migrants and refugees <i>Objectives: 7, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hosting the International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Migrants and refugees to increase visibility and funding for the crisis •International Assistance programming •Capacity-building funding announcement •Supporting the integration of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the labour markets of their host country

These updates cover the period from November 2020 to November 2021.

Update to Section 3 – Progress on GCM objectives

Pandemic response (Objectives 1, 5, 6, 7, 15, 17, 23)

Supporting regular migration pathways

From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada did not waver in its support to regular pathways and in fact increased annual admissions of new permanent residents ([Immigration Levels Plan](#)) for 2020 and 2021. Regular migration pathways create fairer, more transparent and predictable opportunities for migrants, and allow states to address their unique economic and labour market needs.

The pandemic also helped to shine a light on the invaluable roles played by migrants in our communities and across all sectors of the economy, furthering our already strong public discourse on the contributions of migrants and migration. It was clear that our health-care system, for example, relies on the hard work and expertise of new immigrants to keep Canadians safe and healthy. At the same time, the concentration of migrants in front-line and essential jobs made them more vulnerable to contracting COVID-19.

In recognition of their crucial contributions, Canada took several steps on regular pathways during the pandemic, including the creation of a temporary pathway to permanent residency for eligible essential workers and international graduates of a Canadian institution who are actively contributing to Canada's economy. Many of these workers would likely not otherwise have qualified under existing programs to stay permanently. This initiative recognizes seasonal work, allowing seasonal agricultural workers to apply for permanent residence for the first time through a federal pathway.

Addressing situations of vulnerability

Canada has also worked to identify and address situations of vulnerability that have been created or exacerbated by the pandemic, both at home and abroad.

In recognition of the importance of accurate and disaggregated data for evidenced-based policy making for example, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Ontario leveraged federal-provincial data linkages to generate the first insights of its kind in Canada on how immigrants have been impacted by COVID-19. Timely results have included information on immigrants and refugees in Ontario's COVID-19 testing, positivity and vaccination rates, and characteristics such as sex, age, and recency of immigration, which have been used to report to the Ontario Ministry of Health's advisory group on COVID-19¹ and community based-health organizations to identify population groups in situations of vulnerability.

Canada also deepened its commitment to ensuring vulnerable workers have appropriate supports in the context of the pandemic. In July 2021, Canada [proposed a regulatory package](#) that, when implemented, would result in the increased protection of temporary foreign workers, improved ability of the government to prevent bad actors from participating in the program, and strengthened ability of government to conduct inspections. The proposed regulations would, for example, seek to increase protections by requiring all employers to provide reasonable access to health-care services. Further, everyone in Canada was eligible for a vaccine, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Vaccines were accessible to all, including those without health cards.

¹ Ontario's Ministry of Health established a Health Command Table to act as a source of advice to the Minister of Health, Cabinet and the Premier. Led by the Deputy Minister of Health, the Table included the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Ontario, Ontario Health, and 34 public health units across the province.

Settlement services

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada has worked with its network of settlement service providers, the refugee sponsorship community, and provincial/territorial counterparts to ensure newcomers receive the information and supports they need, including information about federal benefits and up-to-date guidance about COVID-19 and vaccines in multiple languages. Early on, the federal government moved towards allowing greater flexibility in funding arrangements (e.g., providing funding to purchase technology for staff and clients, as well as personal protective equipment) to ensure settlement service continuity during pandemic stay-at-home public health direction. Settlement Provider Organizations adapted quickly, moving from predominantly in-person delivery to providing services online or by phone. As the pandemic evolves, Canada will continue to ensure that organizations are equipped to serve newcomers while respecting public health guidelines, and to learn from new practices that support better outcomes for newcomers.

International engagement

Internationally, Canada has worked towards improved international cooperation in support of migration health. Canada organized a two-day Virtual Conference on *Migration Health Impacts of the Pandemic*, together with Costa Rica and the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) in October 2021. Bringing together participants from North, Central and South America and Caribbean states, and a number of international organizations (IOM, UNHCR, PAHO, ICRC), the event enabled information-sharing and discussion on border, refugee and immigration policies and programs in a pandemic context. In partnership with the RCM, Canada is planning a subsequent workshop, *Migration Health in the Americas*, expected to take place in spring 2022. The workshop will provide a valuable exchange of knowledge, best practices and lessons learned on an even wider range of migration health topics, including mass cross-border movements, such as the recent and ongoing Venezuelan emigration; mental health for migrants and front-line personnel; and international outbreaks of infectious disease. The workshop will inform migration health policies and programs for countries and participating organizations, thus contributing to safe migration as envisioned by the GCM.

Canada's international assistance response to the COVID-19 pandemic has also focused on supporting populations that experience greater marginalization and discrimination, including women, girls, and migrants in situations of vulnerability, by addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term development challenges. The pandemic has had wide-ranging socio-economic impacts and has reversed development gains achieved in the last two decades, pushing an estimated 119 to 124 million people into extreme poverty in 2020.

In response to these challenges, Canada is making investments that can have an immediate and direct impact. This includes supporting small, local civil society organizations in the design and implementation of projects that respond to local needs and priorities during the pandemic via the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). For example, in 2020-2021, Canada supported the Panamanian Red Cross to assist the most at-risk groups, migrant populations among them, in dealing with the impacts of COVID-19, including through the donation of two mobile hospitals and the distribution of food, protective gear and emergency health kits.

Promoting balanced narratives via the *It Takes a Community* campaign (Objectives 16, 17, 23)

The promotion of balanced narratives on migrants and migration plays an important role in laying the foundation for successful integration and social cohesion. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, such efforts have proven to be more critical than ever, with the 2020 Secretary-General's report *From Practice*

to Action calling for the international community to “redouble” their efforts to counter discrimination and xenophobia.

Over the past year, Canada has built upon its previous efforts in this area by jointly developing, launching and co-leading the *It Takes a Community* global communications campaign through the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). We are proud to be working on this innovative project in close partnership with the Government of Ecuador, the IOM, and the GFMD Mayors Mechanism. The goal of *It Takes a Community*, which officially launched in March 2021, is to promote a more balanced narrative about migration internationally by sparking conversation and sharing impactful stories on social media about how migrants and migration can enrich communities around the world.

What makes *It Takes a Community* particularly unique is its multi-stakeholder, participatory structure, which helps to advance the GCM’s guiding principle of a whole-of-society approach. In addition to national governments, local governments, youth, businesses, community leaders and members of the public play an important part in this campaign as they speak up about the benefits of migration and the importance of creating inclusive communities. Through the campaign, these diverse partners have been encouraged to share their own unique accounts and perspectives about the positive contribution of migrants. Notably, a series of four stakeholder-led “campaign takeovers” were coordinated between July and September of 2021 to highlight stories from youth, business leaders, cities and civil society groups, and to create space for members of the public to join in the conversation through livestreamed chats and events. The success of this multi-stakeholder approach has been demonstrated by the results of a midterm campaign assessment, which revealed that *It Takes a Community* generated an estimated 6.4 million social media impressions from its launch at the end of March 2021 to the end of July 2021.

Encouraging a gender-responsive approach to migration management (Objectives 1, 16, 23):

Programs and initiatives in support of gender-responsive migration management

As a GCM Champion country, encouraging a gender-responsive approach to migration management is a key priority for Canada. Given the impact that COVID-19 pandemic has had on women, especially visible minority (racialized) migrant women, this lens becomes even more important as we continue in pandemic response and recovery. For example, the Government of Canada’s Budget 2021 [announced the extension of the Racialized Newcomer Women Pilot](#) (formerly the Visible Minority Newcomer Women Pilot) until 2022-2023, with an additional \$15M. This pilot, originally launched in 2018, seeks further improvements to the employment outcomes of racialized newcomer women by addressing their unique barriers to accessing the Canadian labour market. Budget 2021 also announced \$2M over five years to enhance the Settlement Program and address gender-based violence through a collaborative partnership between the settlement and anti-violence sectors.

Canada continued to fund the Gender + Migration Hub, led by the International Migration Research Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University, which will provide concrete guidance and resources on how to design, implement, monitor and evaluate gender-responsive migration policies and practices in line with the GCM. The project will also be expanded to include training resources. Similarly, Canada is supporting a research project and publication by the IOM on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration and migrants from a gender perspective, and endeavors to support policy and programmatic responses during and following the pandemic.

International engagement

In its international engagements over the past year, Canada has stressed the importance of advancing the implementation of the GCM in a gender-responsive manner, and continues to call for practical tools and guidance to support greater progress in this area globally.

During the regional review of the GCM for the Latin America and Caribbean region in April 2021, Canada's Minister for International Development voiced her support for the UN Network on Migration's efforts to establish a Gender Advisory Group, to ensure this guiding principle of the GCM is achieved. The Network has since designated gender as a thematic priority for their work, and Canada has been pleased to continue to support their efforts, including by taking a speaking role during the launch of the UN Women *Policies and Practice: A Guide to Gender-Responsive Implementation of the GCM*.

In its previous reporting, Canada described co-hosting the fourth Canada-European Union (EU) Migration Platform Event, focused on the integration of migrant women. As a follow-up to this event, a December 2021 roundtable was held to advance the Platform's [eighth policy recommendation](#) focusing on gender migration data. Specifically, the recommendation calls for “developing solid datasets which allow the assessment of the intersectionality of gender, migration, and ethnicity and its impacts in all the areas of integration”.

The roundtable brought together policymakers from the EU and Canada, migrant-led organizations and international experts to engage in an evidence-based discussion on initiatives promoted in the EU and Canada to address gaps in monitoring and evaluation of integration outcomes for migrant women, with a specific focus on labour market integration. Other aspects of the discussion included migrant entrepreneurship and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-responsive migration data.

Canada's international assistance continues to promote gender-responsive migration management, guided by its commitment in Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy to taking a feminist, human rights-based and intersectional approach. Over the last year, Canada has contributed to initiatives around the world that meet the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations, advance the human rights of migrants in all their diversity, and promote safe, orderly and regular migration management.

For example, in Honduras, Canada has funded Alianza Para La Paz (APAZ) to deliver the “Action Against Gender Violence in Honduras” project, which seeks to empower women and LGBTI persons, their families and communities, to know and advocate for their rights, and to build capacity among service providers, including local police, justice service providers and civil society organizations, to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination and support survivors.

In the last year, Canada also concluded a project to support the creation of a Gender Mainstreaming Policy for the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC), funded by the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP), which provides assistance to strengthen the capacity of source and transit states to combat migrant smuggling networks programs. The JCLEC is now the first institution within the Indonesian security establishment to adopt any form of comparable gender instrument – a tool that has the potential to influence future senior leaders within organizations in Indonesia and across the ASEAN region responsible for counter-terrorism, human smuggling, countering transnational organized crime and regular policing.

Promoting integration and social cohesion (Objectives 1, 3, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23):

Canada's approach to settlement and integration

Canada continues to place a high priority on the effective settlement and integration of newcomers to ensure the nation's ongoing prosperity and well-being. Canada's two-way approach to integration is premised on social inclusion and mutual adaptation by newcomers and societal actors. This process is supported through inclusive laws and policies, investments in settlement and integration services, and effective multi-sectoral partnerships that help create an inclusive, welcoming environment to bring about social cohesion and public confidence in managed migration.

Key to successful integration of newcomers is a continuum of federally-funded, essential settlement services from the pre-arrival stage to facilitating citizenship acquisition (e.g., information and orientation, language training, community connections, employment services, etc.), thus enabling full participation in the economic, social and cultural life of Canada. In 2020-2021, Canada's Settlement Program was approximately CAD \$835 M for settlement services outside of Quebec, and nearly 380,000 clients accessed at least one settlement service. Canada strives to achieve outcomes-focused settlement programming, and is continuing to build capacity for evidence-based policy and programming. Further, Canada is committed to continued dialogue with civil society and other stakeholders and partners, such as federal and subnational governments and settlement sector stakeholders, to improve immigrant and refugee outcomes.

Collaborative approach

Canada's integration programming relies on partnerships with relevant stakeholders. Canada funds community based partnerships to help local communities recognize the value and benefits of newcomers and the importance of working with various local and regional partners and stakeholders to enable social and economic integration of newcomers in their community.

Recently, the Local Immigration Partnerships as well as the Réseaux en immigration francophone (or Francophone Immigration Networks) have been funded for new initiatives that promote anti-racism and celebrate diverse newcomers, including women, youth, newcomers with a disability, seniors, and LGBTI communities. These networks are using local-level research to inform campaigns, identify local influencers, and reach a broad audience through their partners. Core activities focus on removing systemic barriers for successful newcomer integration in the community, and they include public awareness campaigns and anti-racism initiatives to help build bridges among various community members, including Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, and other equity-seeking groups. A particularly innovative project is the "Welcoming Francophone Communities Initiative", a co-designed and community-based project aiming at empowering 14 Francophone Minority Communities across Canada to become more welcoming to newcomers and to embrace their diversity.

International engagement

Internationally, Canada has continued to promote integration and social cohesion in multilateral and bilateral fora. As Chair of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) Integration Working Group (from January 2020 to October 2021) for example, Canada led discussions on COVID-19 pandemic adaptations in settlement supports, the interface between immigration and integration systems, measurement of integration outcomes, and social cohesion (including efforts to promote social cohesion in IGC States through community engagement and positive narratives regarding migrants and refugees).

Canada has also advanced integration and social cohesion through its international assistance programming, recognizing the value this can bring to sustainable development for both host communities and migrants themselves, ensuring that no one is left behind. For example, through support to the UNHCR project, “Integrating Venezuelan Health Professionals in Peru’s Health System”, 250 Venezuelan health professionals – doctors, nurses, and psychologists – were integrated in Peru’s health system (via the validation of their credentials) to expand safe access to inclusive health services for Peruvian host communities as well as refugees and migrants during the pandemic. Canada is also supporting Media outlets Voz de Guanacaste and Otras Miradas, an initiative that trains independent journalists to promote ethical, fact-based coverage of complex social topics, including migration and cyber and physical security in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. The project will combat disinformation, and promote accurate information oriented towards migrants and the organizations that serve them. Also in Costa Rica, Canada supported the Asociación Nicaragüense para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos ASONIDFEHU (Nicaraguan Association for the Defense of Human Rights, known in Nicaragua as ANPDH) to promote and protect the human rights of Nicaraguan migrants and asylum seekers, through legal and humanitarian aid, reception and investigation of human rights violations and social media use to disseminate information and empower the Nicaraguan migrant and refugee population in Costa Rica, especially those in particularly vulnerable situations.

Capacity-building to improve migration management in the Americas (Objectives 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 23):

International and regional collaboration

Canada is deeply concerned by the increased irregular migration and forced displacement in the hemisphere, particularly involving those in situations of vulnerability. In response, Canada has continued to work with regional partners towards coordinated responses to address the impact and root causes of these mixed movements.

Further to the Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership where the countries agreed to expand support for capacity-building, Canada participated in the North American Leaders Summit with the U.S. and Mexico in November 2021. The Summit recognized the complex factors that have driven an increase in irregular migration and forced displacement throughout the hemisphere, and acknowledged the need for a coordinated regional response. In support of these goals, Canada will be working with the U.S. and Mexico on a number of commitments, including further cooperation in the region, working with other countries in the hemisphere to promote and expand regular migration pathways; to strengthen and expand access to protection for refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants throughout the region; and to foster support for multilateral fora that address migration challenges, such as the GCM.

Further, Canada has continued to actively engage and support regional and multilateral forums to advance common priorities, including the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), a regional forum which brings together countries of North and Central America (and the Dominican Republic) to exchange and identify solutions to tackle migration issues and promote collaboration.

Projects and initiatives

In the past year, Canada has also continued to invest in migration and protection-related initiatives and capacity building projects in the Americas. Initiatives include efforts with the IOM to establish an ethical recruitment corridor linking certified labour recruiters in Mexico with employers in British Columbia, Canada, focusing on promoting migrants’ rights and ethical recruitment practices. At the technical

workshop in October 2021, stakeholders, (government officials from Canada, including BC, and Mexico, employers, recruitment agencies, civil society organizations) exchanged best practices and coordinated approaches to lay the groundwork for the ethical recruitment corridor. Canada is also supporting the North and Central American Task Force on Migration, convened by the World Refugee & Migration Council, by funding the development of foundational research papers to inform the Task Force's policy recommendations on the migration and forced displacement challenges in the Americas region. Canada will continue to support capacity building projects in the region, with further projects to be announced in 2022.

Canada has also continued to provide international assistance programming in the region, furthering safe, orderly and regular migration management via its engagement. For example, Canada supports efforts to prevent migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons (TIP). Recent initiatives include projects with INTERPOL (Operation Turquesa II and III, a coordinated trans-regional policy operation to counter migrant smuggling and TIP in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the PROTEGER project, aimed at building the institutional level capacity of law enforcement agencies in select Latin American and Caribbean countries in countering migrant smuggling); a project with Justice Education Society in Central and South America to build the professional capacities of key actors involved in the prosecution, protection and prevention of TIP in Honduras; and support for Avocats sans frontières Canada, to build the capacity of the Colombian Ombudsman's Office and improve the rights of TIP victims in Colombia.

Responding to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants and host communities (Objectives 7, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23):

Canada remains focused on responding to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants (VRM). Canada hosted the highly successful International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in June 2021, which raised over US\$2.35 billion in pledged grants and loans, bringing in seven new donors and a 45% increase in grants from the 2020 Conference.

In the months leading up to the conference, Canada led and supported a series of actions in close collaboration with key actors to generate momentum for the conference and help highlight the importance of inclusive public and private policies to facilitate economic integration, demonstrate the opportunities and benefits of socio-economic integration as well as profile the key role of civil society in the response. For example, in March 2021, Canada's Minister of International Development virtually visited Colombia, to exchange on the challenges and opportunities of the VRM crisis. The Minister heard directly from migrants to understand their reality and engaged with private sector partners supported by Canada on their efforts to support socio-economic integration of migrants through inclusive employment approaches with a view to turning the crisis into an opportunity.

At the Conference, Canada pledged an additional CAD\$115.4 million over two years in humanitarian and development assistance, for both inside Venezuela and the region. Canada's assistance is responding to the increasing development needs, security risks, and migration concerns stemming from the VRM situation across the Latin America and Caribbean region. Areas of support include: health (with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights); education; asylum and protection; socio-economic integration (including supporting access to employment opportunities and combatting xenophobia); regional security; and border and migration management (including promotion of regular migration pathways).

In addition to ongoing support across the region submitted through last year's voluntary contribution, Canada has further expanded its support since November 2020 through a number of initiatives. These efforts include, inter alia, technical assistance to the Government of Ecuador via the World Bank to support

VRM-inclusive policy development; financial education for migrants, refugees and returnees in Colombia; over \$21M (CAD) in contributions to the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCF), which supports middle-income countries impacted by the influx of refugees; sponsorship of Colombia to the GCF unlocking over a billion USD in development policy loans in support of the government's response to the VRM situation; \$5M (CAD) in support of UNICEF programming to improve education, health and protection services for Venezuelan girls, boys and adolescents in Peru; technical and vocational education and training to increase the employability and labour force participation of Venezuelan LGBTI migrants and refugees in Costa Rica; support for an ILO program working to develop a regional framework for skills certification and public employment services to facilitate the integration of VRMs into host country labour markets across Latin America; and, exchange of best practices and lessons learned to combat trafficking in persons through participation in the Quito Process workshop.

Canada's support to the VRM crisis will be expanded this coming year and onwards. Beginning in 2022, Canada will provide an additional \$59.8M CAD in international assistance funding over two years to support socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants, largely in the areas of education, SRHR, protection, employment, security, and institutional strengthening.

Update to Section 4 – Means of implementation

Promotion and advancing the Compact as a GCM Champion

In the past year, Canada has participated visibly in support of the Compact at the international level. The UN Network on Migration supports the advancement of GCM implementation on many fronts, and Canada has contributed to their efforts, such as by providing input to the Network's thematic Working Groups and actively engaging in regular exchanges with other Member States and GCM Champion countries. For example, in May 2021 Canada participated as a featured speaker in a Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Regular Pathways for Admission and Stay for Migrants in Situations of Vulnerability. Canada similarly was a featured speaker in two peer learning events on Alternatives to Detention. In New York, Canada convened two meetings of Champion country representatives to complement and reinforce the UN Network on Migration-led Champion countries initiative, which includes representatives based in Geneva. Canada also participated in two regional reviews, represented by the Ministers for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and for International Development, respectively. At the April 2021 regional review for the Latin America and Caribbean region, Canada was proud to co-host a side event on gender-responsive approaches to migration with El Salvador, the UN Network on Migration, the Women in Migration Network, and the Gender + Migration Hub.

Outside of GCM-specific events, Canada encouraged a GCM perspective to be included in other bilateral and international meetings and events, often pushing for improved alignment to the Compact and its principles and objectives. In the lead-up to the IMRF, Canada has been raising the importance and value of this first global review in its engagements with other states.

Regional coordination

Canada has continued to engage fruitfully with member states in the Americas on GCM implementation and more broadly, on migration management aligned with the principles and objectives of the GCM. For example, in September 2021, Canada funded a joint meeting of the immigration authorities of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) and South American Conference on Migration (SACM). The meeting allowed for frank dialogue, including among those countries most impacted by increasing mixed migration flows, and resulted in concrete commitments for countries to take actions individually and collectively to address irregular migration. Key areas identified for follow-up include strengthening visa processing

systems and border management, and fostering the implementation of additional and improved pathways for regular migration.

Update to Section 5 – Next Steps

Canada will continue to participate actively in opportunities to exchange on lessons learned in advancing the GCM, such as through the regional reviews or the Migration Hub’s discussion space.

The GCM remains a valuable tool for the international community to work individually and collectively to address the challenges of migration and harness its benefits. As the GCM exists alongside a number of other regional and international cooperative arrangements on migration however, it is important that the international community seek to strengthen these connections in support of GCM implementation. Heading into the first-ever global review of the GCM, Canada would like to see increased attention to creating synergies between national, regional, and global levels while minimizing the risks of duplications or gaps. As well, Canada believes that the global review should focus on several issues: the importance of inclusive societies, and the key role that balanced migration narratives play in helping to create inclusive societies that are free of discrimination; the importance of creating regular pathways to facilitate safe and orderly migration, while deterring irregular migration, benefiting states and migrants alike; and the need to reduce vulnerabilities encountered by migrants. Touching on these and other migration areas, Canada also continues to be attentive with the impacts of COVID-19 on migration, and the importance of gender-responsive migration policies and practices to achieve better outcomes for women, girls, and marginalized groups.

Finally, the pandemic has shown that Canada’s migration system is responsive to emerging challenges. Going forward, Canada will continue to examine the GCM in the Canadian context as new challenges and opportunities arise, and will likewise continue to seize opportunities to exchange in order to support its ongoing process of learning and innovation.