



Regional Consultations: Actionable Recommendations on Missing Migrants and Provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Migrants in Distress

INFORMATION NOTE AND AGENDA

Background

Despite commitments to safe migration in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, at least 30,000 deaths and disappearances on migration routes worldwide have been documented since the Compact's signature.¹ Many more cases of missing migrants remain unrecorded and unaccounted for, leaving hundreds of thousands of families and communities impacted.

In response to this ongoing crisis, the first International Migration Review Forum Progress Declaration requested the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Network on Migration and other actors, to include in his next biennial report actionable recommendations on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress, including by collaborating with humanitarian actors, with the aim of preventing loss of life in transit.²

To meet this mandate, the Network created a workstream, co-led by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Through this workstream, the Network is conducting consultations seeking feedback on the content and prioritization of the recommendations at global, regional and national levels.

These regional consultations follow an introductory GCM Talk held on 23 March 2023; three regional engagements with Member States and other stakeholders³; desk-based research; mapping of promising practices; exchanges and insights from experts; as well as two consultations with Member States.

Objective

The regional consultations are for Member States, civil society and other stakeholders. The main objectives are as follows:

- 1) Present the draft recommendations on missing migrants and key elements on humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress to be included in the next biennial report of the Secretary-General.

¹ IOM's [Missing Migrants Project](#)

² Paragraph 76, [International Migration Review Forum Progress Declaration](#)

³ Nairobi, Kenya on 8 June (Dialogue on GCM implementation in the East and Horn of Africa); 29-30 August (ECOWAS meeting on development of a policy on data and information on missing West African Migrants); Panama City, Panama 29 September (First Regional Forum of Champion Countries in the Americas).



- 2) To gather feedback and insights from stakeholders on the draft recommendations and key elements.

The proposed draft recommendations on missing migrants and key elements for the recommendations on humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress in transit have been shared with participants and are also available [here](#).

Methodology

The regional consultations will be held via Zoom as follows:

REGION	LANGUAGE	DATE	TIME	PLATFORM	REGISTRATION LINK
Africa	French/English	29 January	14:00 - 16:30 CET	Zoom	Link
LAC	Spanish/English	29 January	17:00 - 19:30 CET	Zoom	Link
Asia Pacific	English	1 February	9.00 – 11:30 CET	Zoom	Link
Arab States	English/Arabic	1 February	14:00 - 16:30 CET	Zoom	Link
Europe	English/Russian	2 February	14:00 - 16:30 CET	Zoom	Link

Programme

5 minutes	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">UNNM Secretariat The session will outline the background and objectives of the workstream.
15 minutes	Presentation of draft recommendations, missing migrants <ul style="list-style-type: none">Workstream Co-lead, Missing Migrants Pillar
15 minutes	Presentation of key elements of recommendations, humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress <ul style="list-style-type: none">Workstream co-lead, Humanitarian Assistance Pillar
45 minutes	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">Moderator: UNNM Secretariat
10 minutes	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Workstream member

GCM Objectives

The workstream is closely linked to several objectives of the GCM, in particular **Objective 8** (Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants) but also **Objective 3** (Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration), **Objective 7** (address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration), **Objective 15** (Access to basic services),



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Objective 12 (Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral), **Objective 13** (Use immigration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives) and **Objective 23** (Strengthening international cooperation).

More information on the workstream is available [here](#).



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