

# Presentation of UN Secretary General Report on GCM Implementation

December 5, 2024

Remarks for Ambassador Rae

[~5 minutes]

- It is an honour to be here today as we reflect on the collective progress achieved under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.
- I would like to begin by extending my appreciation to Amy Pope, Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, for her leadership and commitment to the GCM, and for presenting the UN Secretary General Report today.
- I also thank the GCM Member States for their continued cooperation on GCM implementation efforts.
- Canada welcomes the UN Secretary General's Report on GCM implementation, including the limited set of indicators on GCM implementation and the actionable recommendations on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress.
- At the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), Canada made pledges to advance four critical priorities:
  - encouraging **regular migration pathways** (in alignment with GCM objective 5);
  - fostering best practices for **integration and social cohesion** (in alignment with objective 16);
  - encouraging a **gender-responsive approach** to migration (in alignment with one of the GCM guiding principles); and,
  - promoting **balanced narratives** on migration (in alignment with objective 17);
- Since then, Canada has made progress on these commitments, both domestically and internationally.
- **On migration pathways**, Canada has continued to offer temporary measures for crisis-impacted populations and expanded humanitarian and family reunification pathways.
- Canada has responded to a range of crises in recent years, including, but not limited to conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, and Lebanon. For instance, in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Canada implemented **the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel**, granting Ukrainians and their families access to fee-exempt visitor visas to come to Canada and the ability to work, study and stay in the country for up to three years.

- Similarly, on economic pathways, Canada has made enhancements to its **Express Entry system** to allow for the selection of candidates with critical skills to meet economic needs, while regional programs like **the Provincial Nominee Program, the Atlantic Immigration Program**, and pilot programs including the **Rural Community Immigration Pilot** and the **Francophone Community Immigration Pilot** seek to ensure that the benefits of immigration are shared across all regions of Canada. These efforts illustrate how migration can address labor shortages, promote economic stability, and enrich cultural diversity.
- Internationally, Canada delivered on its **pledge to strengthen regular pathways by funding three projects in Central America and Colombia** with the ILO and IOM. These projects delivered tangible results, including:
  - supporting legal reforms in Costa Rica to expand the country’s Labour Migration Traceability System (SITLAM) to include construction and transportation sectors, enhancing migrant workers’ access to opportunities; and,
  - funding a study on barriers faced by transgender migrant women in Bogotá, which informed workshops on regularization and access to employment services.
- **On integration and social cohesion**, Canada launched a **Call for Proposals** in late 2023 to **renew its Settlement and Resettlement Assistance Programs**. The Call for Proposals has identified a set of regional and national service providers across Canada to support eligible newcomers for the next 3 fiscal years. Eligible newcomers will receive services such as language training, help finding a job, and connections with established immigrants, Canadians and Indigenous Peoples.
- Canada also **supports settlement and inclusion efforts internationally** through capacity-building efforts, for example, by partnering with IOM and UNHCR to implement the *Empowering Women & Girls Affected by Migration and Forced Displacement* program in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. This initiative has engaged 5,000 women and girls in the migration cycle, trained 800 service providers, and enhanced the capacity of civil society and private sector actors to deliver sustainable, gender-responsive support.
- **On gender-responsive migration**, Canada continues to advocate for intersectional gender considerations in migration and refugee protection policies through frameworks like the **Feminist International Assistance Policy**; the **National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security**; and, **Gender-Based Analysis Plus**.
- Internationally, we continue to be proud supporters of the **Gender + Migration Hub**, which develops tools and compiles resources to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people on the move; as well as **GenMig**, an IOM-led initiative focused on impact research to support gender-responsive policies, operations, programming and practices in migration.
- **On the promotion of balanced narratives on migration and migrants**, Canada acted as a co-chair of the **Global Forum on Migration and Development’s** Working Group on Public Narratives, which created valuable spaces for governments and non-state actors to exchange

ideas and experiences on this topic. Canada also co-led the roundtable on public narratives with the Philippines at the 2024 GFMD Summit chaired by France. Canada also delivered on its pledge to fund the **It Takes a Community** campaign; a multi-stakeholder global social media campaign which amplifies migrant voices, celebrates their contributions, and highlights the shared benefits of migration to address xenophobia and support social cohesion.

- Domestically, Canada's **Immigration Matters campaign** seeks to demonstrate why immigration is important to Canada by showcasing its tangible benefits at the local level and sharing real stories of how newcomers contribute to their communities.
- I am looking forward to hearing from others on their GCM implementation efforts and potential areas for ongoing collaboration to support safe, orderly and regular migration globally.
- Thank you.