

## Ministerial meeting of GCM Champion countries

Rabat, Morocco

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### Summary of the discussions

Upon the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco, and His Excellency Mr. António Vitorino, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, GCM Champion countries met at a Ministerial level on 25 March 2022.

The meeting was attended by 136 participants from 31 Member States represented by capitals and Permanent Missions, as well as representatives of UN Agencies. Over the course of the discussions, the following representatives took the floor:

- **Azerbaijan** - H.E Mr Ulvi Aliyev, Chief of the International Cooperation Department, State Migration Service
- **Canada** – H.E Ms Nell Stewart, Ambassador of Canada to Morocco from Embassy of Canada to Morocco
- **Chad** – H.E Mr Oumar Ibn Daoud, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Chadians Abroad
- **Ecuador** – H.E Mr Emilio Izquierdo, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office at Geneva
- **Egypt** - H.E Ms Neveen Elhousseiny, Deputy Assistant Minister for Migration, refugees and Combatting Human Trafficking
- **Ethiopia** - H.E Mr Alemante Agedew, State Minister of Justice of Ethiopia
- **Ghana** - H.E Ms Shirley Ayorkor Botchway, Minister Of Foreign Affairs
- **The Gambia** – H.E Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad
- **Cambodia** - H.E Ms Chou Bun Eng, Secretary of State/ Vice Chairperson, Ministry of Interior/National Committee for Counter Trafficking in persons
- **Portugal** - H.E Ms Cláudia Pereira, Secretary of State for Integration and Migration
- **Mali** – H.E Mr Mohamed Ag Albachar Chief of Staff of the Minister for Malians Established Abroad
- **Guinea-Bissau**: H.E. Ms. Udé Fati, Secretary of State for International Cooperation

The following representatives sent pre-recorded messages that were projected during the meeting:

- **Bangladesh** – H.E Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, Foreign Minister
- **Colombia**- H.E Ms Marta Lucía Ramírez, Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs
- **Costa Rica**- H.E Mr Christian Guillermet-Fernandez, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **El Salvador** – H.E Ms Alexandra Hill, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Indonesia** – H.E Ms Retno L. P. Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- **Luxembourg** – H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs
- **Mexico** – H.E Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights

- **Philippines** – H.E Ms Sarah Lou Y. Arriola, Undersecretary (Vice Minister) of Migrant Workers Affairs
- **Thailand** – H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand

In his opening remarks, H.E Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates:

- Thanked representatives for their participation and the UN Network and IOM for the support in the organization of this Ministerial meeting.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated migrants' vulnerabilities and created massive disruptions in legal pathways for migration. At the same time, it has reinforced the relevance and timeliness of the GCM.
- Highlighted the need to focus on the following areas:
  - Reinforce exchange of experiences and perspectives to advance the GCM
  - Create a momentum for the IMRF and reaffirm the 23 objectives of the GCM
  - Take stock of the regional review process
  - Support to the UN agenda on migration
- Reaffirmed the need for champions to speak the same language during the IMRF that migrants can no longer be seen as a threat and that countries must promote inclusive societies by encouraging exchanges, cooperation, and partnerships.

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly stated the following in his opening remarks:

- Thanked the Government of Morocco for convening the Ministerial meeting for the GCM Champion countries and commended its leadership on the GCM.
- Emphasized the importance of national experiences and practices for the discussions in the IMRF, noting that the success of the IMRF depends on the level of the ambition countries bring to the table.
- Urged delegates to encourage their respective Heads of State and Government to participate in the upcoming International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).
- Called on Champion countries to make commitments through submitting pledges on concrete actions that foster national, bilateral, and regional collaboration.
- Encouraged Champion countries to consult with all relevant stakeholders to deliver or update their voluntary national reports on the implementation of the GCM, in line with the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
- He noted that the progress declaration will be essential to share the forward-looking vision of the GCM, which is embedded in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Mr. António Vitorino, IOM DG and United Nations Network Coordinator opened the meeting with the following:

- Welcomed representatives of the Champions countries and thanked H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita and H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid for opening the Ministerial meeting
- Noted the timeliness of this meeting just 50 days ahead of the first IMRF and highlighted the importance of the commitment of Champion countries in raising the visibility of the GCM.
- Urged all Champion countries to set an example for this Forum and future ones, in terms of preparations, engagement and participation.
- Reiterated his proposal for states, and Champions in particular, to undertake inclusive national consultations that will feed valuable knowledge and information for the IMRF and pave the way for open, informed and inclusive exchanges
- Emphasized the role of Champions in leading various components of the IMRF and ensuring panels are diverse and allow for strong and meaningful exchanges on various topics.
- The joint statement that will be endorsed today will also contribute forging a strong Progress Declaration that exemplifies the ambition and vision of the Compact.

During the open exchange Champion countries reiterated their full support to the GCM and commitment to working together towards a successful and strong implementation and review of the GCM, in particular towards the first IMRF, emphasizing that international cooperation in the field of international migration should be the norm, rather than the exception.

Governments expressed appreciation for the continuous support of the United Nations Network on Migration, their guidance, and the key role of the “Migration Network Hub” in promoting knowledge-sharing and exchanges, as they shared their own experiences from the country, as well as its cooperation at the regional and global level. They also welcomed the UN Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of the GCM detailing how governments can put in place laws, policies and practices consistent with the commitments and guiding principles of the GCM and how to lead by example.

While participants celebrated their significant progress, they called for more efforts to accelerate both the implementation of the GCM and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, through the Decade of Action, especially with Covid-19 challenges and their impact on vulnerable communities.

Finally, participating Champion countries endorsed a Joint Statement, entitled “the Rabat Declaration”, and insisted on seizing the opportunity provided by the upcoming IMRF to generate global momentum towards further GCM implementation in support of safe, orderly, and regular migration for the benefit of all.