



**United Nations  
Network on Migration**  
*Working Better Together*

*Checked against delivery*

**United Nations Network on Migration**

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, 18 October 2022: 10h**

Coordinator's Opening Remarks

DRAFT

1338 words/approx. 13 minutes

Dear colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to warmly welcome you all to the fourth annual meeting of the UN Network on Migration.

This is only our second annual meeting in person – the last one being for those who recall in 2019 before the pandemic– and I am pleased to see many of you gathered here once more. It's good to be with you again. Thank you also to those attending online, as we are pleased to offer participation through a hybrid format.

Exactly five months ago, we met for the first International Migration Review Forum.

The Forum by any standards was a success, as was its Progress Declaration, the first consensus document of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, advancing our work on its implementation and confirming the desire of States and stakeholders to have a multilateral space to discuss migration governance.

We as the Network, in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, we can be proud, I believe, of our contribution towards this success.

However, migrants' safety and dignity continue to be at risk around the world. Anti-migrant sentiment remains widespread, and as the Forum itself outlined, implementation of the Compact remains deficient by any metric. There is still much work to do to illustrate how the implementation of the Global Compact can make a difference for migrants, for their families and for their communities.

We thus need to use this meeting to take stock of the outcomes of the Forum but above all to chart out areas to move forward and operationalize better our support to Member States in their implementation of the Global Compact.

Moving forward, our work must continue with a stronger focus on supporting implementation there, where things happen at the country level. To effectively do that we need greater partnerships amongst Network members, stakeholders and Member States, and to increase coherence amongst the different levels of the Network at global level, and I want to appreciate the role of UN agencies at the central level, but also regional and national contexts. We need also to ensure that the Compact's objectives and framework is truly global – that States from all regions commit to its implementation at home, as well as helping those abroad in doing so.

Today's discussion with Network members and stakeholders, I am sure, will help finalize the next workplan of the Network and its key priority areas, as well as examine the complementarity amongst the global, the regional and the national levels of the Network.

Tomorrow we will open up our meeting to Member States: the Migration MPTF will hold its annual consultative forum in the morning and in the afternoon we will discuss our findings from the first day and the way forward together with Member States.

Dear colleagues,

Allow me to reflect on the agenda before us today.

The two sessions for our discussion should be seen as different sides of the same coin. The workplan while developed at global level is meant to help guide country and regional level implementation of the Global Compact. Similarly, feedback and demands from the field help us inform the support needed from the global level in terms of policy, of tools and of advocacy.

This morning we will discuss the new workplan for the Network. It is the culmination of reflections from the IMRF, particularly from pledges and from the mandates of the Progress Declaration; guidance from the Executive Committee; and inputs from Network members and stakeholders, including through an online survey that we have held over July and August.

The workplan has been posted online since 21 September. It covers the 2022-2024 time period, aligned towards the next round of GCM regional reviews and the Secretary-General's Report on GCM implementation, both scheduled for 2024.

There are a number of new and ongoing key priorities in this workplan including those mandated by the States in the Progress Declaration and others whose activities are now focused on operationalizing at country and regional levels the Global Compact.

Proposed activities related to developing a limited set of indicators to allow us to track GCM implementation and, separately, on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and

providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress., This will be discussed in further detail in the next session, as will other priorities such as the growing impact of climate change on human mobility and the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of human beings.

It is important to note how our workplan responds specifically to the mandates from the IMRF Progress Declaration to the Secretary-General – with the support of the Network – to help Member States in the implementation of the Global Compact.

There are two elements to this.

First, upon completion of the first four-year cycle of The Global Compact follow-up, following Marrakesh, implementation and review, Member States have identified key areas in which they require support and guidance to further implement the GCM. We should work earnestly in this short period of time to provide them with the assistance they request and they need.

In particular, they have suggested the need to consider a proposed limited set of indicators by which to better gauge GCM implementation which advances the importance of the GCM itself. And they have also called for specific, additional focus on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress. With nearly 20,000 migrants' deaths, yes, 20,000 deaths, documented since the signing of the GCM, since we were all together in Marrakesh, we should not forget that this second point is also a direct consequence of a key observation coming out of the first round of regional reviews – namely, the dramatic lack of action to save lives.

Second, Member States view the Network as the key vehicle of UN system coherence and collaboration in which to provide them support and guidance to implement the Global Compact, in ways that are transparent and inclusive. That the Network's work was well regarded in the Progress Declaration is of course encouraging; that they will now demand and increase their expectations of what the Network can deliver with and for them is both validating but also sobering.

It is my belief that this new workplan will help us meet those expectations. We look forward, today and tomorrow, to your feedback on improving even further the draft workplan during the morning session. An updated workplan will be presented to the Network Executive Committee Principals for their adoption later this year.

This afternoon we will discuss more specifically country and regional level implementation of the Global Compact. That's where we will win the bet on the GCM.

As they play a central role in the implementation of the priorities of the Network workplan, we look forward to hearing from our colleagues in regional and country networks as they operationalize activities to local contexts and local needs, working with communities, stakeholders and governments.

What we hope to achieve out of that session is clarity and coherence across the different levels of the Network. This should include empowering regional networks to provide support to country networks and ensure that we at the global level improve our tools and guidance for support amongst all the three levels, all the while ensuring that we remain focused on coherence, agility and above all delivery.

Coherence across all levels, I believe, is significant in many ways but here let me highlight two of them.

First, partnerships. Coherence across all levels allows us to embrace partnerships throughout as differing contexts require a variety of UN partners and stakeholders to bring meaning to Global Compact implementation, drawing on differing expertise, capacity, and also responsibilities.

It is important that we ensure, in particular, greater engagement of grass-roots organizations and of migrants' associations in our work. There's a role in this respect. Applying the whole-of-society approach is as significant to the Network as it is to the lively implementation of the GCM.

In this regard, the Network will provide for discussion a stakeholder engagement strategy in the coming weeks.

Second, for communications and knowledge management. We are now beyond the point of setting up structures and processes. That's done. We need to improve our ways of communication and information flow, curating better the good policies and practices that exist. How we better utilize, and we need to utilize it better, the Migration Network Hub is critical to this aspect.

It is our responsibility, too, to be more agile and bolder in speaking with one voice, particularly on key emerging issues. This is an area in which we continue to be deficient.

Dear colleagues,

We have achieved great success, I believe, in our first four years as a Network. But as you know memory of past success is short-lived, and rightly so, I must say. We must now be judged on the continued improvement of our collaboration. That the IMRF was a success cannot blind us to the huge challenges ahead.

I am confident that we can meet the growing demands upon us.

I look forward to our discussions today and taking our work forward together.

Thank you.