



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

**United Nations Network on Migration**

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, 19 October 2022: 15h**

Coordinator's Opening Remarks – Session V – the Way Forward

DRAFT

1198 words/approx. 12 minutes

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

I would like to warmly welcome you to this last session of the fourth annual meeting of the United Nations Network on Migration. To those colleagues joining us online, I am pleased that we are able to offer participation globally through this hybrid format.

We meet today already five months after the first International Migration Review Forum. I wish to congratulate all who were involved in its success and to acknowledge its Progress Declaration, the implementation of which has the potential to significantly advance our common commitment towards more effective, more principled migration governance for the benefit of all.

The Network has – I hope and believe – demonstrated the value of the Secretary-General's commitment to ensuring that the United Nations system was capable of providing coordinated, coherent support to all partners in the implementation of the Global Compact.

But past success is not necessarily a predictor of future utility. That is why discussions such as this on our future direction are indeed so crucial: to ensure that we are focusing on those areas most important that our most important to our collective endeavours.

An updated draft Network workplan for 2022-2024 has been shared with you and was discussed at length with Network members and stakeholder partners yesterday.

In short, the workplan will focus on four key areas:

First, supporting the delivery of the two key mandates given to the Secretary-General by the Progress Declaration: on developing for discussion a limited set of indicators; and on proposing operational guidelines to better support migrants in distress.

Shortly, we will be launching broad-based interactive dialogues on both of these: amongst States, stakeholders and the UN system, globally, regionally and in multiple configurations, to ensure that what emerges truly reflects the collective state of thinking about how best to proceed.

Secondly, operationalizing the now broad range of Network tools and guidance covering a significant number of issues that are addressed in the GCM. Work in this regard is already underway thanks in large part to the buy-in and commitment of the now more than 70 country and regional Network structures dedicated to supporting Member States in implementing the GCM based on local contexts and priorities. The Network's global facilitation team continues to roll out training in countries to help build capacity to deliver on the GCM implementation.

Through these endeavours, we will be able to help embed the GCM into UN and national policy and planning and in due time see the dividends from such efforts. But, equally, it will be important – in line with the Compact's global nature – to ensure that Member States without a UN operational presence also avail themselves, as appropriate, of these tools that we created, all piloted by Member States, themselves.

Connected to this the Network, at all levels, will support, where relevant, Member States in realizing those pledges that they have made in the run-up to the IMRF. We hope that this initiative will not stop with the Forum itself but will rather provide a platform to inspire peers to generate a steady flow of best practices that can be replicated and from which we can all learn.

Beginning soon and on a regular basis, we will be able to report on the progress made on the pledging dashboard. I look forward to your renewed engagement with this pledging initiative.

Thirdly, we will continue to focus on a number of thematic priority areas where we believe that the Network, by speaking with one voice and working together, can contribute in some tangible way towards delivering on the promises of the Compact. This includes diverse topics such as climate change – each time more relevant; building on the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, above all to prepare to future emergencies and mainstream public health aspects in migration policies; and of course, migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, the most obnoxious violation of the human rights of migrants.

And, finally, we will continue to deliver on supporting the infrastructure envisaged by the Global Compact itself.

This includes its system of follow-up and constant review.

We must shortly turn to the second round of regional reviews, likely in early 2024.

In preparing for them we should aim to learn from the last round, as well as from the IMRF itself: what went well; what areas can be strengthened; how can we ensure the broadest possible engagement from all actors and how can we effectively build on existing platforms and existing processes?

To get to that end, the Network will, soon, start discussions with all of you on an overarching framework for the regional reviews, as we did last time.

And it includes, too, the Compact's capacity building mechanism.

Many of you were present this morning at the Migration MPTF's Consultative Forum, where we heard from a sample of the Fund's 12 joint programmes covering all thematic areas of the GCM. I thank all contributors to the Fund, as well as the members of the Steering Committee past and present for their commitment.

And I continue to encourage further contributions to the Migration MPTF, as being exactly the sole financial instrument dedicated exclusively to the Global Compact's implementation, as being the embodiment of the Compact's commitment to international cooperation, and as being in concert with overall UN system reform efforts.

The Migration Network Hub is also integral to the capacity building mechanism. During the coming cycle that we are now starting, the Hub will play a central role in delivering on the new workplan, offering space for dialogue, tools to support implementation, including training and guidance, and up-to-date information on how and where the Global Compact is being rolled out globally.

The Hub will facilitate broad-based consultation on the Network's priority areas, including the development of indicators and work on migrants in distress. Further development of the Hub will be undertaken to ensure it benefits users at global, at regional, and at country levels, including civil society stakeholders.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We are creating, I believe, what the architects of the Global Compact had in mind. Namely, an increasingly rich ecosystem, one of transparent deliberation – online and in-person – that is inclusive and increasingly comfortable to all participants.

One in which we have Member States leading the Champion countries initiative; stakeholders leading thematic dialogues; growing financing – I hope; a collaborative atmosphere, and the emergence of a body of practice that validates the very essence of the Compact itself.

Indeed, this is no small feat. But we cannot rest on this alone. We must remember, in every action we undertake, why we are doing it.

Migrants continue to face serious challenges in their journeys and in their daily lives. Anti-migrant sentiment remains, and in some quarters, it even continues to grow, polarizing domestic politics as it damages individual lives.

This is the reason why our actions on delivering the Global Compact need to foster an *inclusive* approach, one in which communities buy into its implementation and value it as a public good and where migrants are part of the decision-making process. Our commitment to the Global

Compact is only as valuable as our support to migrants themselves, ensuring that we leave no one behind.

For today's session, we want to hear from you on your approaches to the Global compact implementation and on how better the Network can support you. And I want to express my thanks to the panelists for their contributions to this collective debate. What are your expectations of the Network going forward, including towards the next round of regional reviews in 2024? And what other key priorities should the Network undertake to provide guidance and tools to support you in your work?

I look forward to our discussions today being fully assured that out of them, we will have better conditions to implement the Global compact for Safer .

Thank you.