



Coordinator's Briefing on the Network

Remarks

15 September, 11:00 – 13:00 CET (virtual)

As delivered

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

It is my pleasure to convene today's meeting to allow us to reflect on the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), and above all to discuss the way forward in building on the momentum generated by the IMRF, for our collective cause.

I will also provide a brief update on the Migration Network's efforts in providing support and guidance to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Following my presentation, the floor will be open for comments and questions.

The IMRF both marked the culmination in the first phase of the GCM's life, fully integrated into the United Nations as the common guidance on international migration, and also resulted in a consensus-based Progress Declaration, giving us a roadmap for the years ahead.

Member States, supported by stakeholders and the entire United Nations system, re-committed to improving cooperation on international migration governance: we should celebrate how far we have come in our collaboration to make migration beneficial and meaningful for all, even as we remain acutely aware of the extent of the work ahead of us.

With 153 Member States represented – over 50 of whom were at ministerial or deputy ministerial level - the Forum was able to meet in-person, which contributed in no small measure to its success.

Close to 170 pledges were announced ahead and during the Forum, with over 100 coming from 27 Member States. Pledges included commitments to end child detention as well as policy and legislative action on climate change and migration. Pledges continue, by the way, to come in as I believe this is an ongoing process.

The Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund received new contributions. Donors remained committed to supporting the Fund and called on others to contribute to this critical tool for GCM implementation.

Pledges were also made by the UN common system, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 28 different United Nations entities, and a range of other stakeholders, including cities through the Mayors Mechanism.

Forty-four Member States submitted new or updated voluntary GCM reviews, while 17 regional or international platforms or institutions submitted inputs.



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These submissions show significant areas of convergence. For example, there were numerous references to the need to strengthen regional and global cooperation; to minimize the adverse drivers of migration, including climate change; to facilitate labour migration and regular pathways; to collect more and more accurate data; and to combat human trafficking.

The IMRF's Progress Declaration captured both progress and gaps to date, while also suggesting ways to intensify our collective commitment to achieving the GCM's vision. The Declaration I believe represents progress both in the manner in which it was negotiated and adopted and in its substance, strengthening our common commitment towards migrants and all our societies.

It advances the GCM across a broad range of areas, from human rights to combatting discrimination, to the links between migration and the climate, while also calling on the Secretary-General, supported by the Network, to advance discussions in a number of areas.

I am also grateful for the consistent recognition of the vital role of the Network, when supporting Member States, included in the Progress Declaration.

Excellencies and colleagues,

The first four years of the GCM cycle can be deemed a success as well as the first Forum. These set a benchmark by which we must judge the next phase – the second four years.

We have spent these first years setting up our structures and processes:

- The Network, with its tools and guidance, as well as its expansion to over 70 regional and country networks;
- The leadership of the Champions initiative in over 30 countries and their cross-fertilization of the GCM into other intergovernmental platforms;
- The increase in stakeholders at all levels;
- The capacity building mechanism, including 12 joint programmes supported by the Migration MPTF, and an active online community through the Migration Network Hub, and, last but not least;
- The process of implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM itself, including the regional reviews and IMRF.

But if this first cycle was about building structures and establishing proof of concept, the next phase must focus squarely on implementation. As we enter the next four-year cycle, our goal should be to demonstrate the long-term impact of the GCM and its related structures.

To help in this, the Network is committed to ensuring you have all possible UN system support.

Together with the invitation for this meeting, you received a working draft of our new Network workplan, foreseeing activities over the next two years, which will bring us to the next round of regional reviews and the third report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Compact, both regional regionals and the report of the Secretary-General due in 2024.

As GCM implementation grows in scope and complexity, it becomes ever more vital to improve our means of sharing information and sharing practices.



To this end, the new workplan emphasizes knowledge management, including by consolidating the role of the Migration Network Hub as part of the GCM's capacity building mechanism, which will enable us to share and all relevant information on GCM implementation in one place.

The workplan will also include a focus on building the capacity of UN country teams or country Networks, regional networks, and national partners. The next phase of work will emphasise operationalizing Network tools and guidance that were developed and piloted as part of the previous workplan, supporting Member States and partners to advance GCM implementation.

The workplan builds on work already undertaken by the Network, for example on bilateral labour mobility agreements, return and reintegration, and pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations, for which guidance has already been developed but now needs to be rolled out. The workplan also plans for scaling up the replication of good practices, building on peer exchange, in areas such as alternatives to detention.

Lastly, the workplan includes new activities, as mandated by the Progress Declaration.

This includes the development of a limited set of indicators, for consideration by Member States, to help review the progress made in the implementation of the GCM, as well as to develop a comprehensive strategy for improving disaggregated migration data.

The Progress Declaration also requested the Secretary-General to include in his next report actionable recommendations on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress.

The Network will bring together relevant expertise and voices – States, UN system, and stakeholders – at the global, regional and national levels to ensure that these initiatives truly benefit from inclusive discourse.

The Network will hold its annual meeting at the Palais here in Geneva next month to finalize this workplan. This meeting will be an opportunity to welcome the World Bank as a member of the Network's Executive Committee, and will also include sessions with Member States and the annual Consultative Forum of the Migration MPTF, both scheduled for 19 October.

More details on the annual meeting will follow in due course.

Three years after its launch, the Migration MPTF is widely recognized as a vital tool to support the GCM implementation and as an embodiment of that Compact's commitment to international cooperation.

It is a state-of-the-art financing mechanism that responds to needs expressed by Member States, promotes a strong alignment to the guiding principles, fosters partnerships and greatly contributes to United Nations system coherence.

To fulfill its potential and deliver the strong support needed, the trust fund requires additional resources. Let me therefore emphasize the Progress Declaration's call for financial contributions. Even small contributions are welcome.



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We welcome your feedback to our draft Network workplan during this briefing. We have also established a dedicated discussion space on the Migration Network Hub.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We have achieved much to be proud of over this first four-year cycle of the GCM. Yet we have much more to accomplish.

The next round of regional reviews of the Global Compact will take place in 2024. It will be important to build on lessons learned from the 2020-2021 regional reviews. To that end, the Network will develop an updated roadmap for the next round of regional reviews to be made available early next year.

The Network will also work with governments which have made pledges for implementing the GCM.

With my thanks for your patience, I believe that now the floor is open for any comments, observations or questions you may have.