

DRAFT Roadmap

Organization of the Regional Review process for the Arab Region

This note outlines a set of suggested elements pertaining to the organization of the second round of Regional Review in the Arab region. Building on the first round of Regional Reviews and the success of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), this second round of Regional Reviews provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the place of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in international migration governance and reinforce the role of UN Network on Migration in supporting the process.

In A/RES/73/195, paragraph 48, Member States commit to review the progress made at the local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the GCM in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

In A/RES/73/195, paragraph 50, Member States also invite relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations regional economic commissions or regional consultative processes, to review the implementation of the GCM within the respective regions in order to effectively inform each edition of the International Migration Review Forum, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, in A/RES/73/326, paragraph 9, Member States request the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, to assist, upon request by Member States, in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the GCM.

To respond to those mandates, and in partnership with the UN Network on Migration in the Arab Region, which was established to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support for implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, in response to the needs of Arab Member States, the below is a proposed roadmap for the second GCM regional review in the Arab region and its preparatory process.

Developing the overall framework for the Regional Review

1. An opportunity for increased regional collaboration and State ownership

- The Abu Dhabi Dialogue annual ministerial meeting in February 2024
- The Arab Regional Consultative Process annual meeting in May 2024 will discuss on the GCM and its recommendations to the regional review.

2. Roadmap for Regional Reviews in the Arab region

The UN Network on Migration in the Arab region will provide support to the regional review process in the Arab region.

Preparatory Process in 2023-2024

GCM Talks

- The five regional workstreams launched under the Regional UN Network on Migration will support the preparatory process for regional review process by organizing a series of dialogues, the GCM Talks series, that will feed into the regional review conference on 2 to 3 July 2024.
- The GCM Talks will also help to map existing practices, identify gaps in implementation and emerging challenges at the regional and cross-regional level.

Champions meetings and other initiatives

There are currently three GCM Champion countries in the Arab region, namely, Egypt, Iraq and Morocco. Supported by the Regional UN Network on Migration in the Arab region, Champions meetings and other initiatives could be part of the preparatory process of the Arab regional review.

Multi-stakeholder consultations

The Regional UN Network on Migration in the Arab region with support from the Regional Stakeholder Advisory Group and the Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration will host one regional multi-stakeholder consultation prior to the regional review conference in 2024.

Regional Reviews during the first half of 2024

- **Inter-governmental Regional Reviews hosted by Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) and the UN system**
- The regional review process offers an opportunity for the Arab Member States, through their respective RCPs, to discuss sub- and cross-regional collaboration and the mainstreaming of the GCM and its guiding principles into existing regional processes.
- North Africa and other Arab-Africa Member States are invited to participate both in the Regional Review in the Arab region and in the Africa Continental Review scheduled in 2024.
- Members of the UN Network on migration in the Arab region are encouraged to organize additional thematic consultations with relevant stakeholders.
- National UN Networks on Migration are also encouraged to support Member States to hold national consultations in their respective countries. The outcomes of these consultations and discussions would feed into the regional review process and its outcome document.
- The regional review conference to be organized by IOM, ESCWA, and the League of Arab States, in collaboration with the members of the Regional UN Network on Migration in the Arab Region, and with the support of the Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration, will ideally serve as the culmination of all the national, sub- and cross-regional discussions hosted by Member States and the RCPs as well as the Regional and National UN Network members and stakeholders in the Arab region.
- The regional review conference to be organized IOM, ESCWA, and the League of Arab States, in collaboration with the members of the Regional UN Network on Migration in the Arab Region, and with the support of the Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration, could include discussions on those areas that have been identified during the RCP and other sub-regional

and cross-regional meetings as well as national and thematic consultations as needing enhanced cooperation at the regional and cross-regional levels, and the meeting will be informed by the multi-stakeholder consultation to be held prior to the regional review conference.

- The RCP and the UN discussions on the GCM implementation in the region could result in summary reports that will feed into the General Assembly meeting in the second half of 2024 and the IMRF in 2026.

Objectives

Building on the momentum from the First GCM Regional Review Process and its findings, the second regional review process will offer an opportunity for Member States and stakeholders in the Arab region to:

- Critically reflect on intra-regional and cross regional priorities, emerging issues, and gaps in the implementation of the GCM.
- Identify regional progress and challenges in implementing the recommended actions set out in the IMRF Progress Declaration.
- Consolidate critical findings and recommendations to inform the 2026 IMRF
- Highlight good practices and exchange experiences to accelerate the achievement of the GCM objectives
- Explore opportunities for strengthening regional and cross-regional cooperation on migration.

Outputs of the Regional Reviews

The process will result in the production of summary reports of regional review meetings and an Outcome Document of the regional review conference that will summarize the key messages from all participants. It will also include an annex of key messages from the stakeholder consultation(s). The Outcome Document should be finalized by September 2024, and will be considered at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly in the second half of 2024 to be presented by the Coordinator of the Network, as in A/RES/76/266, paragraph 77, as well as to inform the next IMRF in 2026.

Calendar for the Regional Review process in the Arab region

(Updated as of March 2024)

Preparatory process		
Date	Event	Organizer
September 2022	<i>Cross-regional Dialogue between the Gulf and African countries</i>	Government of Qatar
July 2023	<i>GCM Talks: Good Practices and Challenges on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements including Skills Mobility Partnerships (closed)</i>	Government of Morocco
July 2023	<i>GCM Talks: GCM Indicators – Arab States</i>	UNDESA, IOM
September 2023	<i>GCM Talks: Regional Workstream on Alternatives to Detention and Deprivation of Liberty (closed)</i>	OHCHR and UNICEF
September 2023	<i>Sub-regional Technical Dialogue with Stakeholders in North African Countries on GCM Objective 21 on Cooperation in Facilitating Safe and Dignified Return and Readmission, as well as Sustainable Reintegration (closed)</i>	Government of Egypt
October 2023	<i>GCM Talks: Regional Workstream on Climate Change, the GCM and the Paris Agreement</i>	ILO and IOM
November 2023	<i>Global Stakeholder Consultation for the Asia Pacific and Middle East-North Africa regions</i>	Global Network Secretariat
February 2024	<i>Abu Dhabi Dialogue Annual Ministerial Meeting</i>	Government of UAE
February 2024	<i>Regional Consultation on Actionable Recommendations on Missing Migrants and Provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Migrants in Distress</i>	ICRC, IFRC, IOM and UNHCR
February 2024	<i>GCM Champions Countries' Initiative: GCM Talk on Building a Balanced/Evidence-Based Narrative around Migration and Migrants (closed)</i>	Government of Morocco and El Salvador
April 2024	<i>GCM Talks: Regional Stakeholder Consultation</i>	Regional Stakeholder Advisory Group
May 2024	<i>Arab Regional Consultative Process Annual Meeting</i>	League of Arab States
Regional Reviews		
Date	Event	Organizer
2 July 2024	<i>Regional Stakeholder Hearings</i>	IOM, ESCWA and Regional Stakeholder Advisory Group
3-4 July 2024	<i>Second GCM Regional Review Conference in the Arab region</i>	IOM, ESCWA and League of Arab States
September 2024	<i>Submission of the Outcome document to the plenary meeting of the General Assembly</i>	IOM and ESCWA



October 2024	<i>Africa Stakeholder Consultations</i>	IOM, UNECA and African Union Commission
October 2024	<i>Africa Continental Review on the GCM</i>	IOM, UNECA and African Union Commission
Second half of 2024	<i>The plenary meeting of the General Assembly</i>	General Assembly

Annex I – Tools, guidance and initiatives to support GCM implementation, follow-up and review

The Progress Declaration calls on the Network “to cooperate with Member States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen collaboration, peer learning, engagement and linkages at the global, regional, national and local levels” (para 72), and “to provide support to Member States and relevant stakeholders in their implementation of their pledges, upon their request” (para 73).

The Regional Network will strengthen the systems and partnerships that have been developed to support GCM implementation, follow-up and review through a whole of society and whole of government approach. Furthermore, the regional network will seek to operationalize the guidance and tools it developed to support Member States, the UN system and stakeholders in the implementation of the GCM; and develop more coherent approaches to strategic communications and advocacy.

Guidance for Member States and stakeholders in implementing the GCM

Among the tools mentioned, the [Guidance for Member States and stakeholders on implementing the GCM](#) aims to strengthen whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches for implementing the GCM through the development of GCM national implementation plans or other mainstreaming efforts.

In line with the above, the IOM Regional office with the support of the UN Network on Migration, will organize a two-day technical workshop for IOM’s Migration Focal Points in the MENA region in order to unpack the guidance ahead of the next regional review scheduled for 2024 and capacitate them on how to support stakeholders and governments with GCM implementation.

Guidance and trainings strengthening the UN System in supporting GCM implementation

The Network provides system-wide support to UN Country Teams [to Facilitate integration of the GCM into UN planning and programmes](#) to strengthen implementation of the GCM and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

In an effort to further rollout and regionalize these trainings, the Arab region now has a pool of trainers who are prepared and certified to conduct these rollouts for UNCTs. So far, the trainings have been rolled out in Kuwait, Lebanon and Libya with plans to roll these out in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia.

[Network Workstreams](#)

To complement the workstreams at the global level, the Regional Network in the Arab Region has launched five thematic workstreams:

- [Actionable recommendations on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress](#)
- [Climate Change, the GCM and the Paris Agreement](#)
- [Enhancing pathways for regular migration through Bilateral Labor Agreements](#)
- [Alternatives to Immigration detention](#)

- [Preparing for future health emergencies by mainstreaming public health considerations into migration policies and services, at national and local levels](#)

These do not intend to duplicate the work at the Global level, but rather to complement and regionalize this work where appropriate, whilst ensuring alignment and coherence with developments at the global level and supporting inputs from the country level where appropriate. These workstreams aim to support GCM implementation through concrete proposals and commitments by participating agencies.

Annex II - Partnerships

The Network has built extensive partnerships with both non-governmental stakeholders and Member States. Going forward, Member States and stakeholders have indicated a need for such engagement to happen in a more systematic way, including at the country and regional levels, complementing existing work at the global level. Below is an overview of Network partnership initiatives at the regional level:

Stakeholder engagement

The [Stakeholder Guidance](#) outlines ways in which the Network can promote meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders in the Regional Reviews and their preparatory processes as valuable contributors to the follow up and review processes of the GCM.

In May 2023, The Regional Network in the Arab region supported the [launch of a Regional Stakeholder Advisory Group](#) to amplify/unify regional stakeholder voices and work towards systematic, inclusive and whole-of-society approach to GCM implementation.

Through this advisory group, stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in and co-organize activities as part of the preparatory process including the “GCM Talks” and side-events at country, sub-regional, regional or global levels.

Annex III – Communications and advocacy tools

In February 2023, the Network launched a series of consultations and peer-learning exchanges – [GCM Talks](#) – to support Member States, the United Nations system, and stakeholders to continue discussions on how best to implement the GCM. The GCM Talks take place mainly at global and regional levels. Where relevant, GCM Talks can be organized at the national level. Their purpose is to encourage an exchange of ideas, identifying key challenges or issues which require attention, initiating pledges and identifying practices for inclusion on the Hub.