

## GCM Talk

# Towards effective solutions: Addressing the complexities behind the Smuggling of Migrants

22 June 2023 – 3 PM CET | Hybrid event: IOM HQ in Geneva and online

Organisers: *UN Network on Migration Workstream 4 - Ensuring migrant protection through strengthened responses to migrant smuggling and increased coordination on its linkages with trafficking in persons*

Simultaneous translations will be provided in English, French and Spanish

The Workstream "[\*Ensuring migrant protection through strengthened responses to migrant smuggling and increased coordination on its linkages with trafficking in persons\*](#)" will hold its first GCM Talk to introduce its key objectives and areas of focus, and with a view to encourage participants to share and discuss experiences, practices, gaps and needs to better respond to the smuggling of migrants. In the spirit of GCM Talks, this event will aim at engaging Member States, the United Nations system and stakeholders to continue discussions on how best to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and, in this stance, particularly GCM objective 9 "*Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants*".

The Workstream leverages on the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Progress Declaration, which emphasizes the importance of enhancing responses to the smuggling of migrants (SoM), in coordination with initiatives tackling trafficking in persons, while ensuring to uphold the rights of migrants and tackle the impunity of criminal networks. This commitment is reflected in the 47 pledges on SoM, out of a total of 173, made in the context of the IMRF's pledging initiatives by diverse stakeholders.

Within this framework, this GCM Talk is an important opportunity to engage stakeholders in discussions that will advance the Workstream's objectives and its contribution in this specific area of work. Overall, it is hoped that the insights and recommendations generated from the GCM Talk will contribute to highlighting the relevance of working towards a common and correct understanding on key definitions and aspects of the Smuggling of Migrants, facilitate bilateral and multilateral cooperation amongst States, and promote rights-based approaches to initiatives countering the Smuggling of Migrants.

The Objectives of the event are:

- Discuss on how to promote a common understanding among UN entities, civil society organizations, and governments regarding the definitions and aspects of the smuggling of

migrants, while facilitating bilateral and multilateral cooperation to effectively intercept, disrupt, investigate, and prosecute those involved in such activities in a lawful and standardized manner.

- Highlight the importance of a rights-based approach in countering the smuggling of migrants, with a specific focus on the agency and needs of migrants, the role of their communities of origin, as well as the integration of innovative perspectives into responses to countering the smuggling of migrants.
- Encourage the exchange of experiences and good practices to advance the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in the area of the smuggling of migrants, ultimately contributing to more effective and comprehensive approaches to address this issue.
- Launch and disseminate the Workstream’s Policy Brief: Mapping the Landscape of the Smuggling of Migrants: An Overview of Key Concepts, Trends, Challenges and Areas for Action

#### *Draft Agenda*

Time	Sessions
15:00	Welcome Remarks
15:10	Interactive Panel Discussion
15:40	Interventions from the floor and Q&A
16:15	Oveview of Policy Brief: <u>Mapping the Landscape of the Smuggling of Migrants:</u>
16:20	Closing Remarks

Panel Discussion – example of driving questions:

- How can we enhance international cooperation and coordination to identify, disrupt, investigate, and prosecute criminal entities involved in the smuggling of migrants, while ensuring the protection of migrants' rights, based on national and regional experiences?
- How can we leverage the use of data to better inform responses to SoM?
- How can we enhance responses to SoM by considering migrants’ agency and decision making processes, as well as their ties to local contexts, and promote nuanced and inclusive solutions?
- What are the some key challenges and opportunities in advancing the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in the context of the smuggling of migrants?

The key Outcomes of the GCM Talk include:

- Enhanced awareness of the Workstream. The event will contribute to increasing awareness about the objectives and workplan of the Workstream, ensuring that participants have a better understanding of its focus areas and goals.

- Exchange of ideas and advancement of key deliverables: The event will facilitate a productive exchange of perspectives and best practices among participants, enabling the advancement of the Workstream's key deliverables and objectives. This exchange will help identify gaps and needs to better respond to the smuggling of migrants, and thus trigger ideas on innovative approaches and solutions to tackle the complexities of the phenomenon.
- Engagement in the Workstream's key deliverables: Participants will be invited to actively participate in the Workstream's key deliverables, particularly the call for abstracts scheduled for Q2/3 2024. This call will target qualified early-career researchers, underrepresented researchers from the global south, first-generation college graduates, and women researchers, inviting them to submit exploratory and critical research. This engagement will foster diverse perspectives and ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing the issue.
- Summary report of discussions and action points: A comprehensive report will be prepared, summarizing the key discussions and recommendations made during the GCM Talk event. This report will serve as a valuable resource, capturing the insights and outcomes of the event, and providing a basis for further action and collaboration in this area of work.