Workstream "Measuring progress: GCM indicators"

Summary report on the responses to the questionnaire on the follow-up and implementation of paragraph 70 of the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum

Background context and process

Paragraph 70 of the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) called on "the Secretary-General, in his next biennial report, to propose, for the consideration of Member States, a limited set of indicators, drawing on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda as contained in General Assembly resolution 71/313 of 6 July 2017 and other relevant frameworks, to assist Member States, upon their request, in conducting inclusive reviews of progress related to the implementation of the Global Compact, as well as to include a comprehensive strategy for improving disaggregated migration data at the local, national, regional and global levels."

The United Nations Network on Migration workstream on "Development of a proposed limited set of indicators to review progress related to GCM implementation" was established in response to this paragraph. The workstream is co-led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and is comprised of representatives of UN entities and relevant stakeholders from across the world[1].

As part of its activities, the workstream invited Member States[2], international organizations, and other stakeholders to complete a short online questionnaire on the critical elements that should be reflected in the proposal for a limited set of indicators. The purpose of this exercise was to promote greater inclusiveness, efficiency and transparency; and to inform the workstream's next steps, which include a mapping of relevant indicator frameworks and a proposal for a limited set of indicators, building on existing processes, including the work of the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics.

The questionnaire consisted of four multiple-choice questions and one open-ended question. Member States were encouraged to coordinate their responses with their national statistical offices. International organizations and other relevant stakeholders were invited to submit one coordinated response per entity. The questionnaire was accessible on the Hub of the Network on Migration and was available in English, French and Spanish. Responses to the questionnaire were collected between February and March 2023. In total, 145 replies were submitted, of which 46 were not taken into consideration either because they were duplicate responses by the same entity (42 cases)[3] or because the affiliation of the respondent was unknown (4 cases).

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[1] Workstream members (as of April 2023) were: Gender Hub+, Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Mayors Migration Council, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO).

[2] Member States here refers to Member States of the United Nations as well as Non-Member States having received a standing invitation to participate as Observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining Permanent Observer Missions at Headquarters.

[3] In cases of multiple responses by the same entity, the submission by the headquarter office was selected.

The sections and figures below provide a summary of the responses to the questionnaire based on the 99 submissions received that were retained[4].

Main findings

Of the 99 responses received, the vast majority indicated that the proposal for a limited set of indicators should seek to inform evidence-based policy-making and decision-making; highlight gaps in the implementation of the GCM; and promote greater coherence in policy responses. While acknowledging that the proposal should be one of several tools and frameworks, most respondents also agreed that it should serve as the main tool to review progress in the implementation of the GCM. Regarding the critical elements in developing the proposal for a limited set of indicators, most respondents endorsed the notion that it should incorporate the guiding principles of the GCM, and include migrant voices and perspectives, as well as the voices and perspectives of other stakeholders. In addition, most government entities called for the proposal to be limited in scope, to be built on existing reporting requirements and mandates, and to have no additional budgetary implications. Among international organizations and stakeholders, fewer respondents considered having a limited scope or no additional budgetary implications critical elements.

In response to the question on how many indicators the proposal should include, the majority of government entities, international organizations and stakeholders agreed that the number of indicators could vary based on the scope of the objective, and that, when possible, one indicator could be used for multiple objectives. There was little support among respondents for limiting the proposal to only one indicator per objective, to having some objectives without a corresponding indicator, or to using a rotating approach, with different indicators applied in different years.

Respondents also broadly endorsed having an agreed methodology; complying with existing international standards and recommendations; providing a basis for international comparison among countries and regions; and being used to monitor progress over time as important criteria for identifying the limited set of indicators. Two-thirds or more of responding government entities also agreed that the indicators in the proposal should be part of the SDG indicator framework; should be available for a large number of countries; and should rely on official statistics or data from national statistical systems. The views of international organizations and stakeholders differed from those of government entities on some of these elements with lower percentages replying that being "Part of the global SDG indicator framework" was an important criterion, and higher percentages replying that they agreed with using other non-official sources of data, such as from civil society, academia, or the private sector.
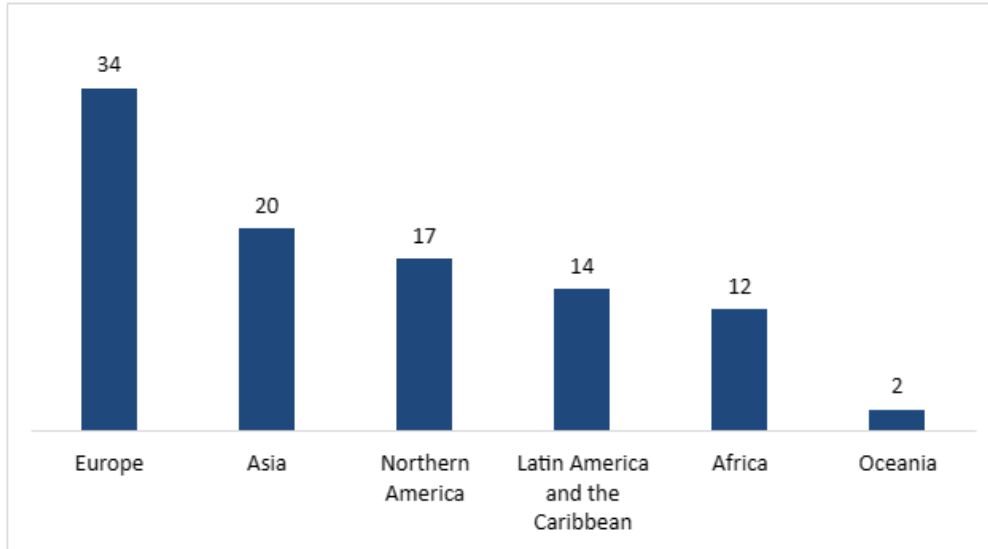
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[4] Annex I provides a list of entities responding to the questionnaire.

Overview of the total number of responses by region and by entity

Respondents from Europe submitted the largest number of responses (34), followed by Asia (20), Northern America (17), Latin America and the Caribbean (14), Africa (12) and Oceania (2) (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of responses by region

Note: The regions are ordered by number of responses.

Government entities (33) provided the largest number of responses among the types of entities considered, followed by civil society or non-governmental organizations (28), international organizations (17) and academia and research institutions (10) (Figure 2). There were fewer respondents from the private sector, trade unions, national human rights institutions and other entities.

Figure 2. Number of responses by type of entity
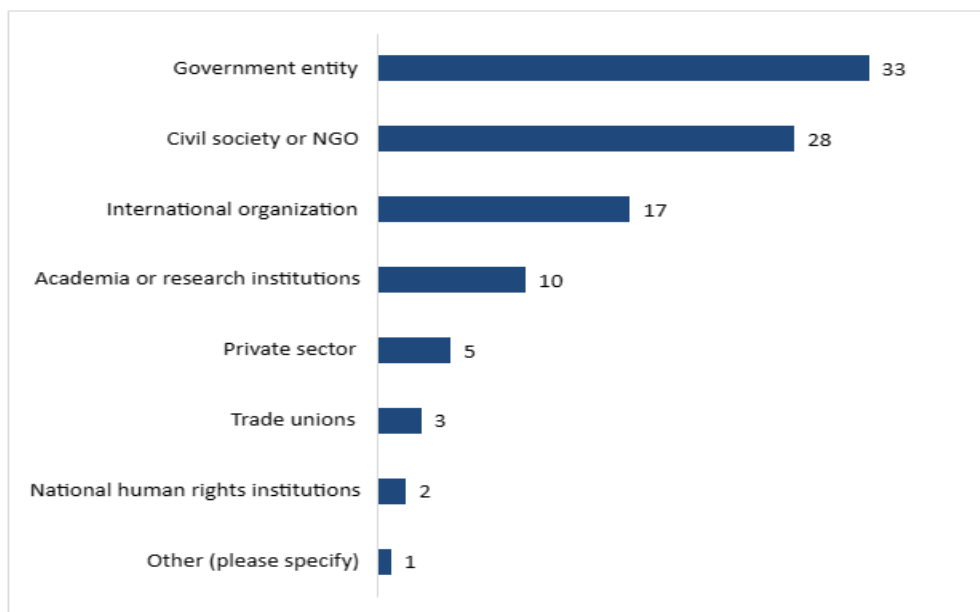
Note: The types of entities are ordered by number of responses.

1. Responses to the question "What should the proposal for a limited set of indicators seek to accomplish?"

The first question consisted of the following seven multiple-choice sub-questions plus one open-ended category:

- Serve as the main tool to review progress in the implementation of the GCM
- Be one of several tools and frameworks for countries to consider to review progress in the implementation of the GCM
- Help identify best practices
- Inform evidence-based policy- and decision-making
- Highlight gaps in the implementation of the GCM
- Promote greater coherence in policy responses
- Encourage greater accountability to migrants
- Other (please specify).

For each of the sub-questions, respondents were asked to select one of three categories: "Agree", "Not sure", "Disagree".

Overall, most respondents agreed with the seven multi-choice sub-questions (Figure 3). "Inform evidence-based policy-making and decision-making" had the highest share of respondents agreeing (90 per cent), followed by "Highlight gaps in the implementation of the GCM" (88 per cent) and "Promote greater coherence in policy responses" (84 per cent). The sub-question with the lowest share of respondents agreeing was "Serves as the main tool to review progress in the implementation of the GCM" (64 per cent). For this sub-question, 23 per cent of respondents indicated that they were not sure, while an additional 13 per cent replied that they disagreed. Respondents also conveyed some uncertainty about whether the proposal for a limited set of indicators should "Encourage greater accountability to migrants" or "Help identify best practices".

Figure 3. Responses to the question "What should the proposal for a limited set of indicators seek to accomplish?", by sub-question (percentage)
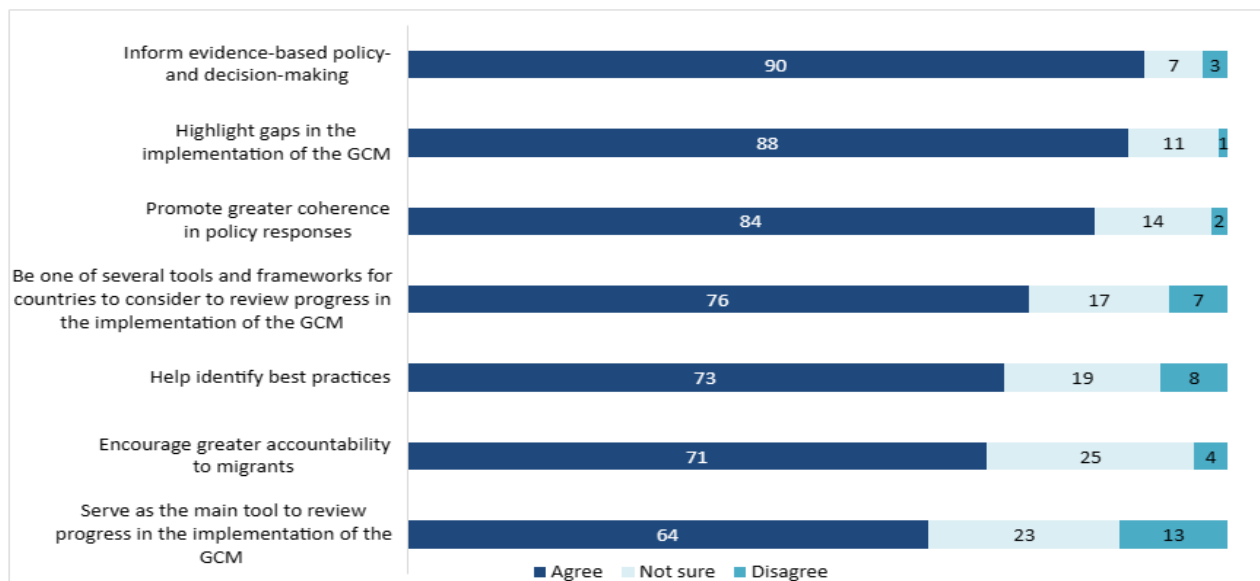
Note: The sub-questions are ordered based on the share of responses "Agree".

Focusing on regions, while for several sub-questions including "Inform evidence-based policy-making and decision-making" and "Highlight gaps in the implementation of the GCM" there was a convergence of views, for others there were marked differences in the responses provided (Figure 4). For instance, most respondents from Oceania (100 per cent) and Africa (83 per cent) agreed that the limited set of indicators should "Serve as the main tool to review progress in the implementation of the GCM", compared to 35 per cent of respondents from Northern America. Other sub-questions with marked differences at the regional level were "Be one of several tools and frameworks for countries to consider to review progress in the implementation of the GCM" and "Encourage greater accountability to migrants".

Figure 4. Replied "Agree" to the question "What should the proposal for a limited set of indicators seek to accomplish?", by sub-question and region (percentage)
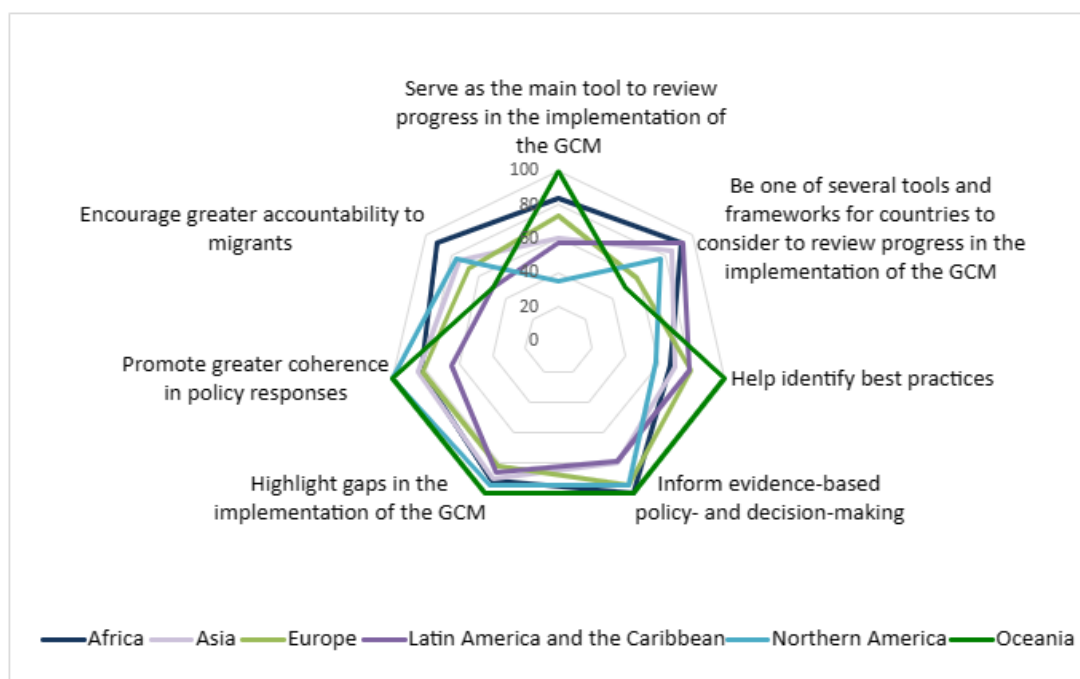

Note: The number of replies for Oceania is 2.

In terms of the type of entity that responded, there were both areas of convergence and difference in the answers provided (Figure 5). Among the 33 government entities that replied, many agreed that the proposal for a limited set of indicators should "Inform evidence-based policy- and decision-making" (85 per cent) and "Highlight gaps in the implementation of the GCM" (82 per cent). International organizations and stakeholders also broadly agreed with those sub-questions. There were greater differences in the responses to the sub-question "Be one of several tools and frameworks for countries to consider to review progress in the implementation of the GCM", which received support from 76 per cent of responding government entities and from 82 per cent of responding stakeholders, compared to 59 per cent of responding international organizations. Similarly, 88 per cent of stakeholders that answered the questionnaire agreed that the proposal for a limited set of indicators should "Encourage greater accountability to migrants", compared to 65 per cent of the responses from international organizations and 48 per cent of responses from government entities.[5]

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[5] Among the 17 international organizations that responded, 12 per cent disagreed that the limited set of indicators should "Encourage greater accountability to migrants", while 23 per cent were "Not sure". Among the 33 responding government entities, 3 per cent disagreed with the statement and 48 per cent expressed uncertainty.

Figure 5. Replied "Agree" to the question "What should the proposal for a limited set of indicators seek to accomplish?", by sub-question and type of entity (percentage)
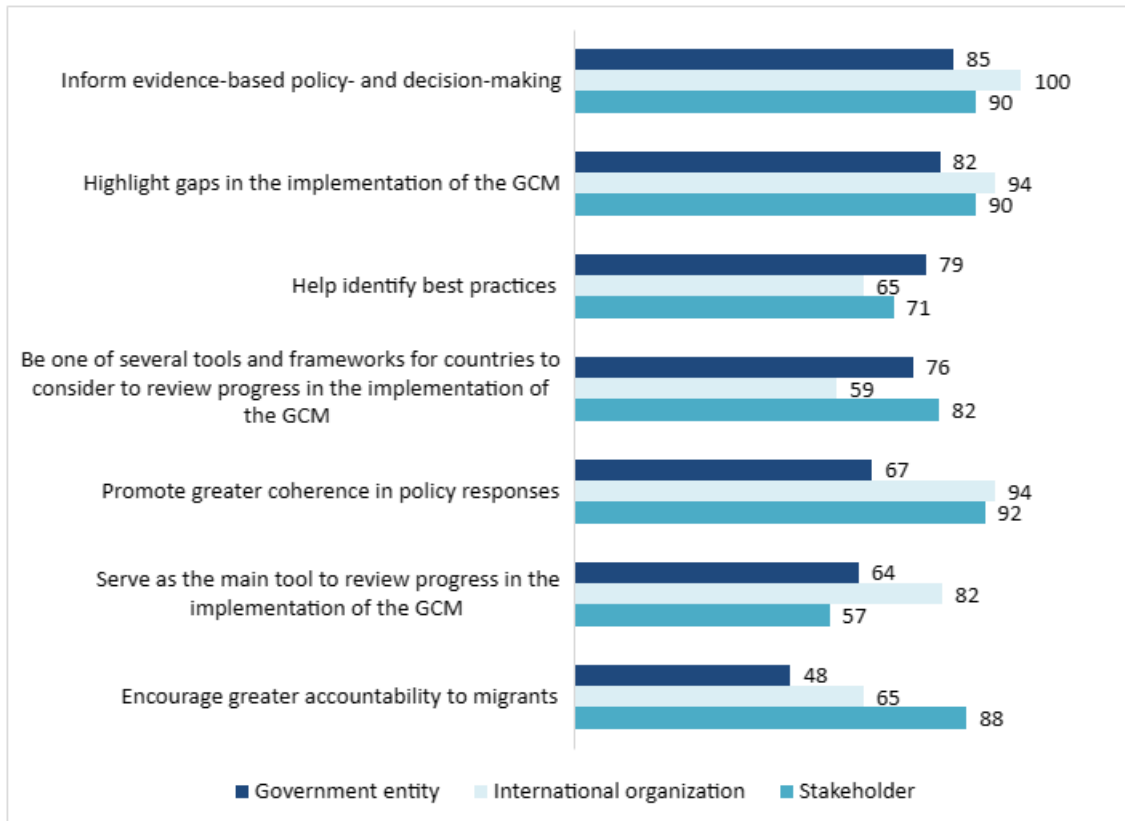
Note: The sub-questions are ordered based on the share of responses "Agree" by government entities.

2. Responses to the question "What do you consider to be critical elements in developing the proposal?"

The second question consisted of the following six multiple-choice sub-questions plus one open-ended category:

- Be limited in scope
- Include migrant voices and perspectives
- Include voices and perspectives of other stakeholders
- Build on existing reporting requirements and mandates
- Have no additional budgetary implications for countries
- Incorporate the guiding principles of the GCM
- Other (please specify).

For each of the sub-questions, respondents were asked to select one of three categories: "Agree", "Not sure", "Disagree".

Compared to the first question, there was greater variability in the replies (Figure 6). A high share of respondents agreed that "Incorporating the guiding principles of the GCM" (91 per cent) was critical in developing the proposal, followed by "Including migrant voices and perspectives" (87 per cent), and "Including voices and perspectives of other stakeholders" (85 per cent). The considerations "Be limited in scope" or "Have no additional budgetary implications for countries", received less support, with more than half of all respondents either expressing uncertainty or disagreeing with these elements.

Figure 6. Responses to the question "What do you consider to be critical elements in developing the proposal?", by sub-question (percentage)
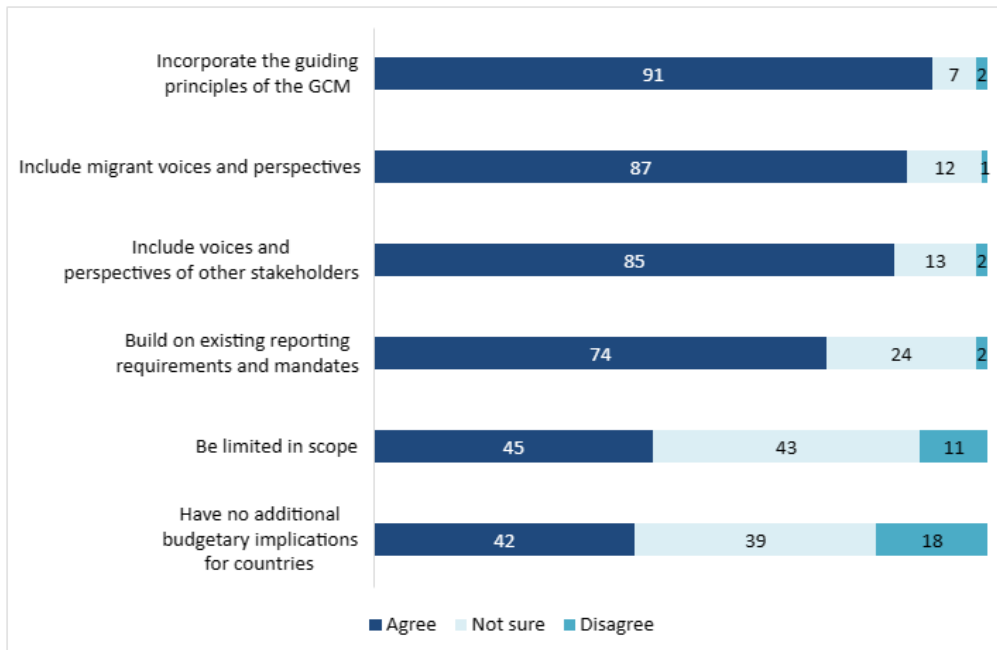
Note: The sub-questions are ordered based on the share of responses "Agree".

In terms of regions, most respondents across all regions agreed that "Incorporating the guiding principles of the GCM" was a critical element in developing the proposal (Figure 7). For other sub-questions, however, there were marked differences. For example, 86 per cent of the entities that replied from Latin America and the Caribbean agreed that the proposal should "Have no additional budgetary implications for countries" compared to less than 30 per cent of responses from Europe and from Northern America. There were also marked differences at the regional level regarding whether the proposal should "Include migrant voices and perspectives", "Include voices and perspectives of other stakeholders" or "Be limited in scope".

Figure 7. Replied "Agree" to the question "What do you consider to be critical elements in developing the proposal?", by sub-question and region (percentage)
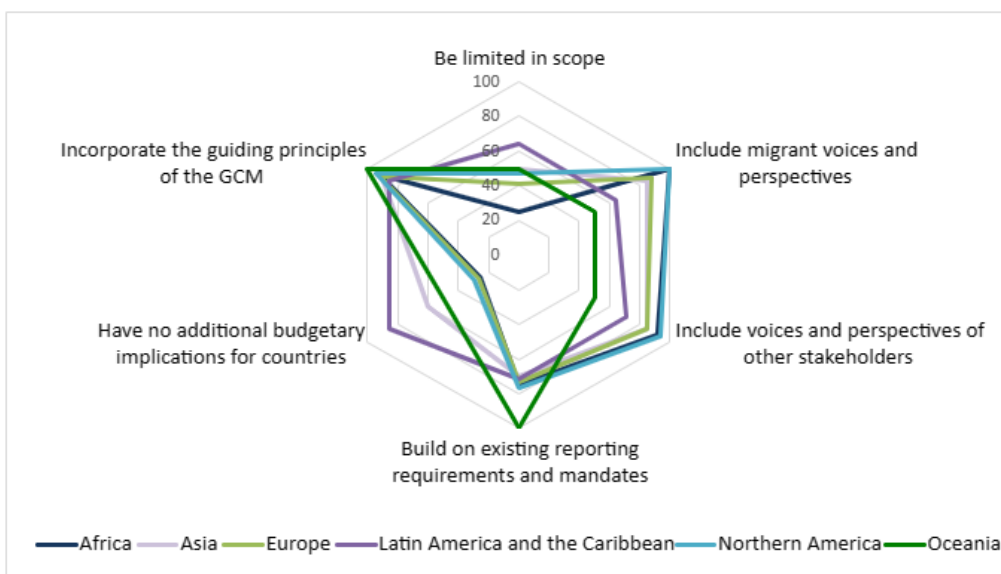
Note: The number of replies for Oceania is 2.

Among the 33 government entities that responded, many expressed a high degree of support for the sub-questions, with values ranging from 85 per cent agreeing that the proposal should "Incorporate the guiding principles of the GCM" to 64 per cent considering that it should "Be limited in scope" (Figure 8). Among international organizations and stakeholders, however, the replies to the sub-questions were more diverse. For instance, 100 per cent of the 17 international organizations that responded agreed that the proposal should "Incorporate the guiding principles of the GCM", while 35 per cent agreed that the proposal should "Have no additional budgetary implications for countries". There were also marked differences in the replies among the 49 stakeholders that answered the questionnaire, with 98 per cent agreeing that the proposal should "Include migrant voices and perspectives", compared to 24 per cent agreeing that it should "Have no additional budgetary implications for countries".

Figure 8. Replied "Agree" to the question "What do you consider to be critical elements in developing the proposal?", by sub-question and type of entity (percentage)
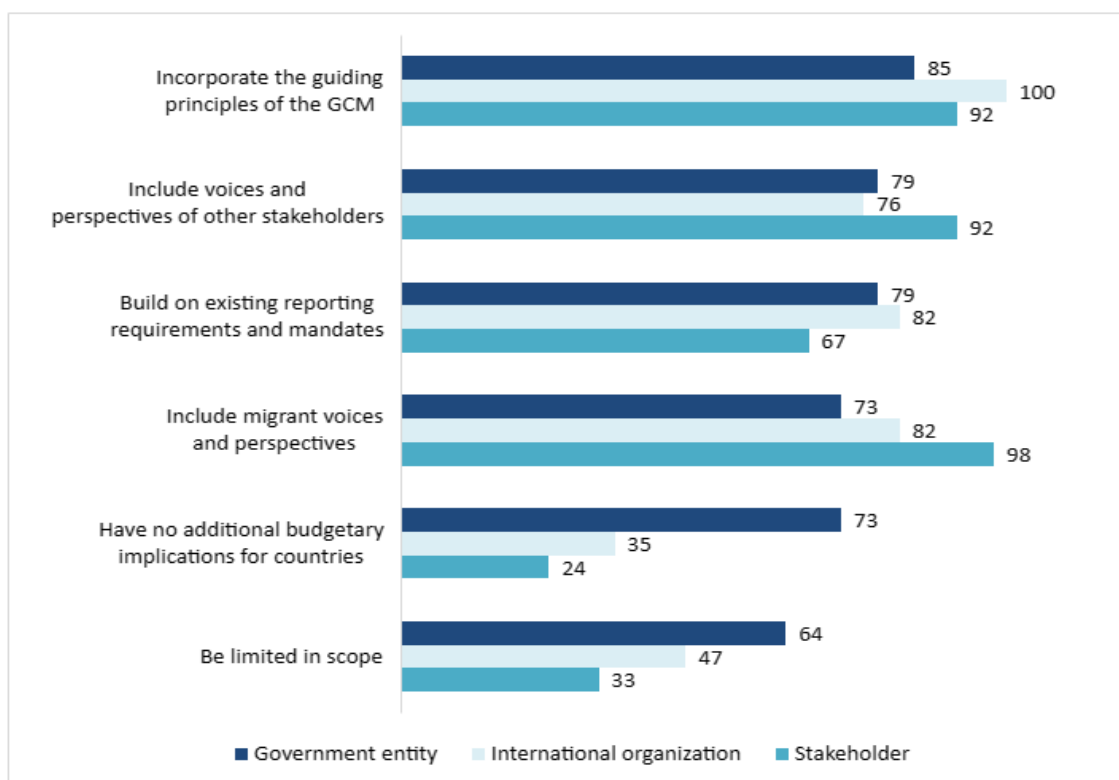
Note: The sub-questions are ordered based on the share of responses "Agree" by government entities

3.   Responses to the question "How many indicators should the proposal include?"

The third question consisted of the following six multiple-choice sub-questions plus one open ended category:
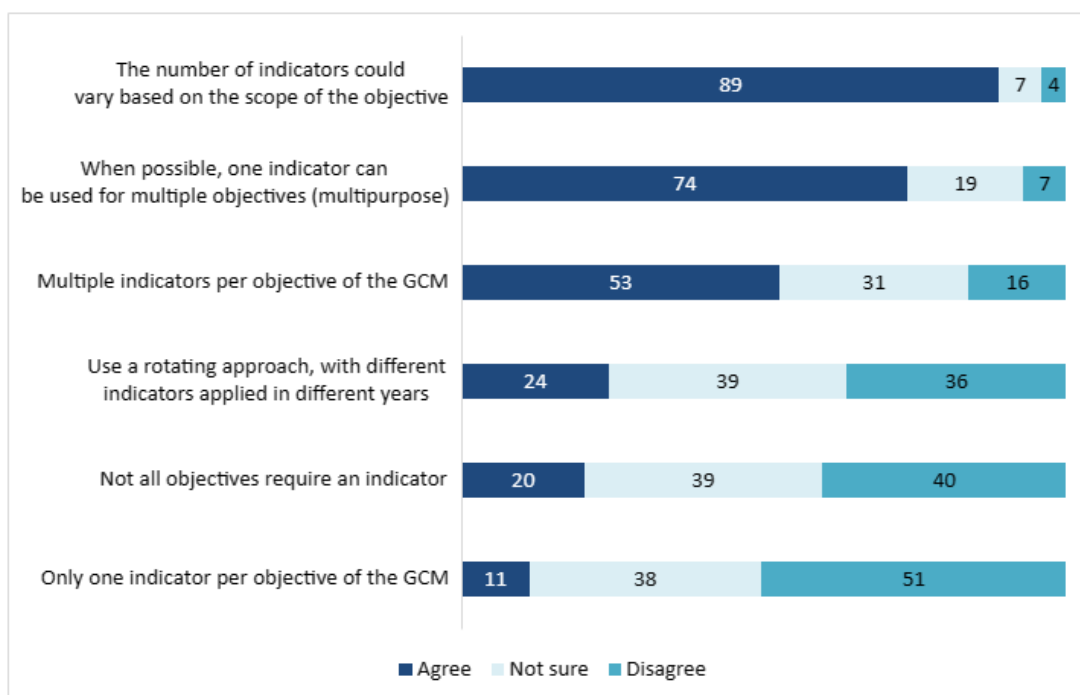
- Only one indicator per objective of the GCM
- Multiple indicators per objective of the GCM
- The number of indicators could vary based on the scope of the objective
- Not all objectives require an indicator
- When possible, one indicator can be used for multiple objectives (multipurpose)
- Use a rotating approach, with different indicators applied in different years
- Other (please specify).

For each of the sub-questions, respondents were asked to select one of three categories: "Agree", "Not sure", "Disagree".

There were considerable differences in the replies provided to question three (Figure 9). Eighty-nine per cent agreed that "The number of indicators could vary based on the scope of the objective", while 74 per cent agreed that "When possible, one indicator can be used for multiple objectives (multipurpose)". Conversely, very few respondents agreed that there should be "Only one indicator per objective of the GCM" (11 per cent), that "Not all objectives require an indicator" (20 per cent), or to "Use a rotating approach, with different indicators applied in different years" (24 per cent). For most of these sub-questions, large shares of replies indicated either uncertainty or disagreement.

Figure 9. Responses to the question "How many indicators should the proposal include?", by sub-question (percentage)

Note: The sub-questions are ordered based on the share of responses "Agree".

At the regional level, there was strong convergence in the replies for many of the sub-questions (Figure 10). Many responding entities across all regions agreed that "The number of indicators could vary based on the scope of the objective" with values ranging from 100 per cent for Africa and Oceania to 80 per cent for Asia. There was also broad support for using one indicator for multiple objectives (multi-purpose), when possible. None of the regions had high shares of respondents agreeing that the proposal should include "Only one indicator per objective of the GCM" or that "Not all objectives require an indicator", while only for Africa did a majority of respondents (75 per cent) support the "Use a rotating approach, with different indicators applied in different years".

Figure 10. Replied "Agree" to the question "How many indicators should the proposal include?", by sub-question and region (percentage)
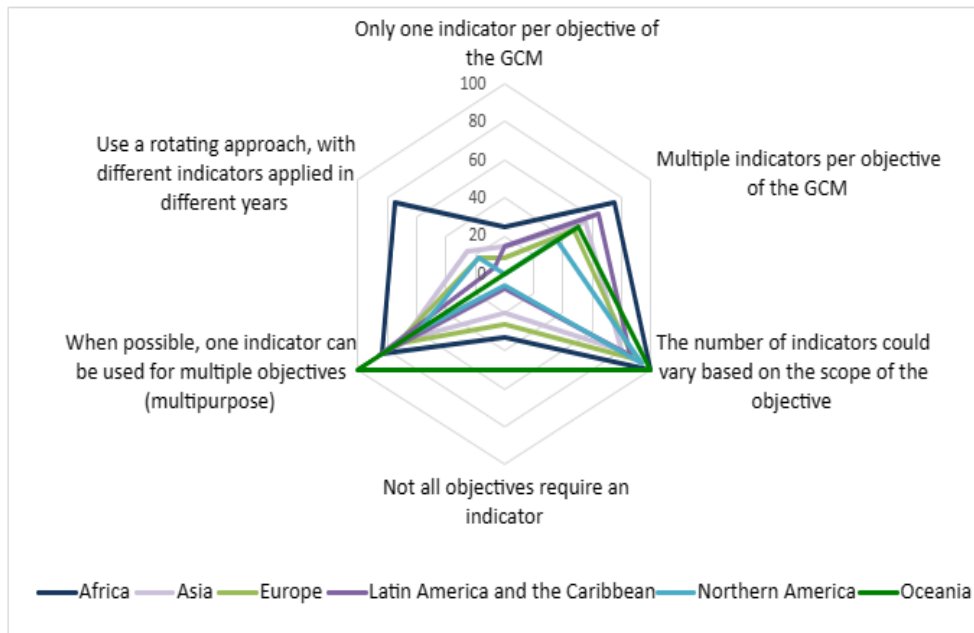
Note: The number of replies for Oceania is 2.

There was a high degree of convergence in the responses of the various types of entities that replied to question three. High shares of all respondents agreed with the sub-categories "The number of indicators could vary based on the scope of the objective" and "When possible, one indicator can be used for multiple objectives (multipurpose)". Likewise, very few respondents across all entities supported using "Only one indicator per objective of the GCM" or the notion that "Not all objectives require an indicator".

Figure 11. Replied "Agree" to the question "How many indicators should the proposal include?", by sub-question and type of entity (percentage)
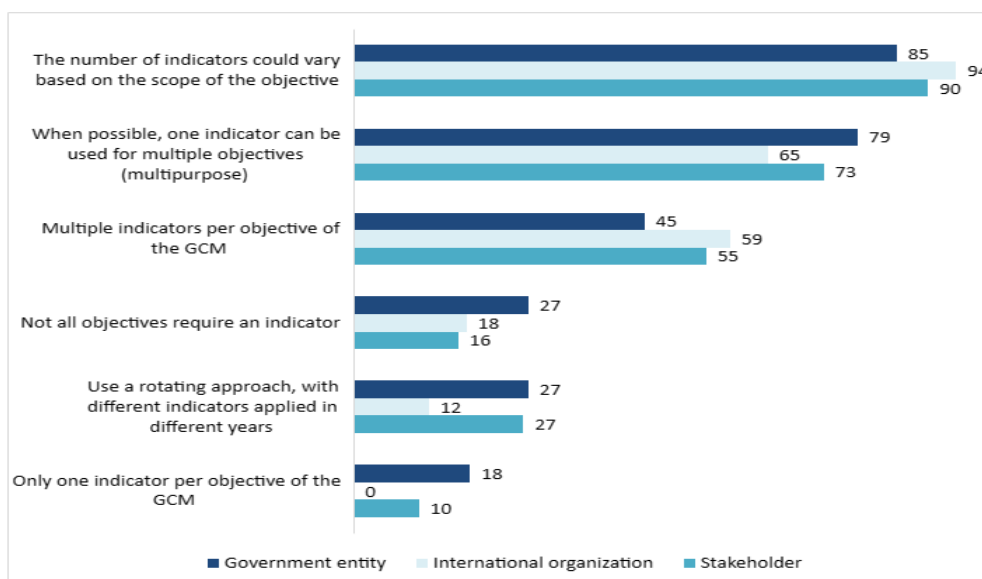
Note: The sub-questions are ordered based on the share of responses "Agree" by government entities.

## 4. Responses to the question "What criteria should be used to identify the limited set of indicators?"

The fourth question consisted of the following nine multiple-choice sub-questions plus one open ended category:

- Is part of the global SDG indicator framework
- Has an agreed methodology
- Complies with existing international standards and recommendations
- Can be used to monitor progress over time
- Provides a basis for international comparison among countries and regions
- Is available for a large number of countries
- Can be disaggregated by migration status or other relevant criteria
- Relies on official statistics or data from national statistical systems
- Uses other non-official sources of data (such as from civil society, academia, or the private sector)
- Other (please specify).

For each of the sub-questions, respondents were asked to select one of three categories: "Agree", "Not sure", "Disagree".

Responses to question four showed a high level of support, ranging from 94 per cent for the sub-question "Can be used to monitor progress over time" to 58 per cent for the sub-question "Relies on official statistics or data from national statistical systems" (Figure 12). Even though most respondents indicated that they agreed with these criteria, the sub-categories "Uses other non-official sources of data (such as from civil society, academia, or the private sector)", "Is part of the global SDG indicator framework", and "Can be disaggregated by migration status or other relevant criteria" had relatively high shares of responses that were either "Not sure" or "Disagree".

Figure 12. Responses to the question "What criteria should be used to identify the limited set of indicators?", by sub-question (percentage)
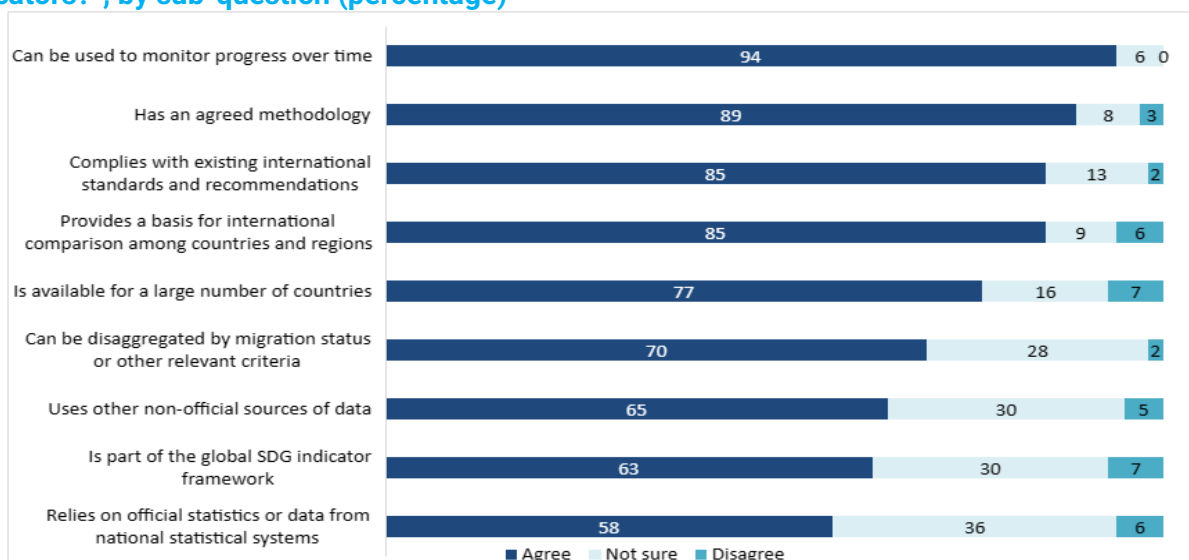

Note: The sub-questions are ordered based on the share of responses "Agree".

In terms of regions, there was a strong support for the criteria "Has an agreed methodology"—with values ranging from 100 per cent for Oceania to 85 per cent for Asia— and "Can be used to monitor

progress over time"—with values ranging from 100 per cent for Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania to 90 per cent for Asia (Figure 13). There were considerable differences in the replies provided to some of the other sub-questions. For instance, two-thirds or more of respondents from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean agreed that the limited set of indicators should be "Part of the global SDG indicator framework", compared to around half of respondents from Europe, Northern America and Oceania. There were also marked differences in responses among regions to the sub-question "Relies on official statistics or data from national statistical systems" with high shares of support expressed from respondents from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, and much higher shares of uncertainty or disagreement from respondents from Europe and Northern America.

Figure 13. Replied "Agree" to the question "What criteria should be used to identify the limited set of indicators?", by sub-question and region (percentage)
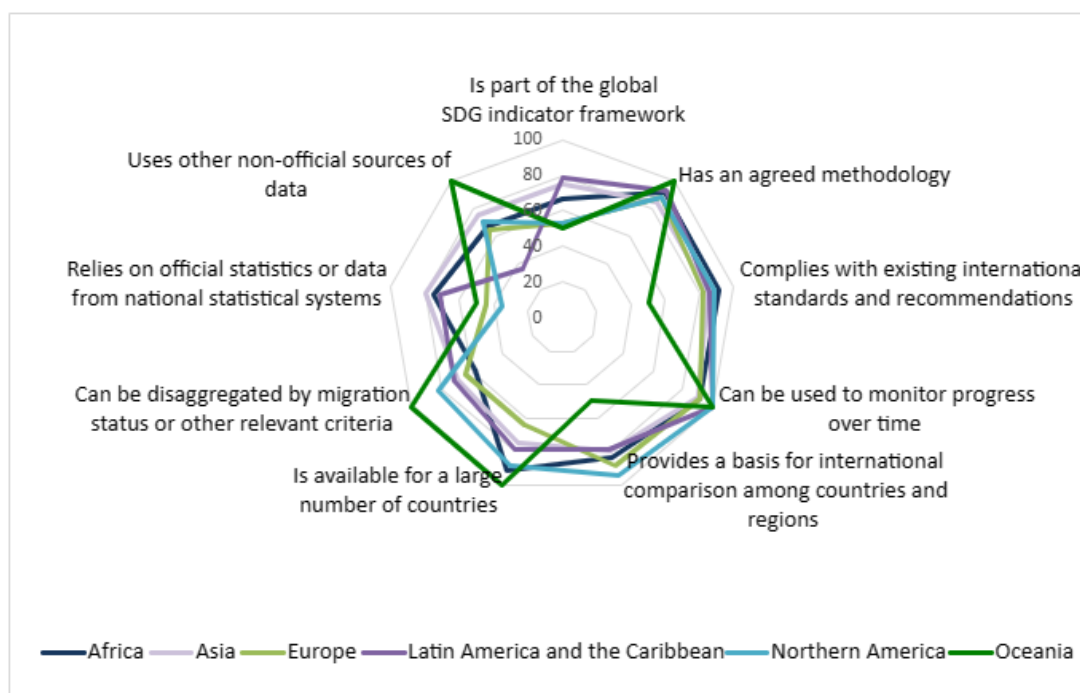

Note: The number of replies for Oceania is 2.

Most respondents, regardless of their affiliation, agreed on the importance of the indicators having an agreed methodology, being used to monitor progress over time, and complying with existing international standards and recommendations. For some sub-categories, however, there were considerable differences. Seventy-six per cent of the government entities that replied agreed that being "Part of the global SDG indicator framework" was an important criterion for identifying the limited set of indicators, compared to 47 per cent of respondents from international organizations, and 59 per cent of stakeholder respondents. Likewise, only a minority of responding government entities (39 per cent) indicated that they agreed with using other non-official sources of data (such as from civil society, academia, or the private sector), compared to 82 per cent of respondents from international organizations, and 76 per cent of stakeholder respondents. Twelve per cent of the responding government entities disagreed with using non-official data sources, while 48 per cent expressed uncertainty.

Figure 14. Replied "Agree" to the question "What criteria should be used to identify the limited set of indicators?", by sub-question and type of entity (percentage)
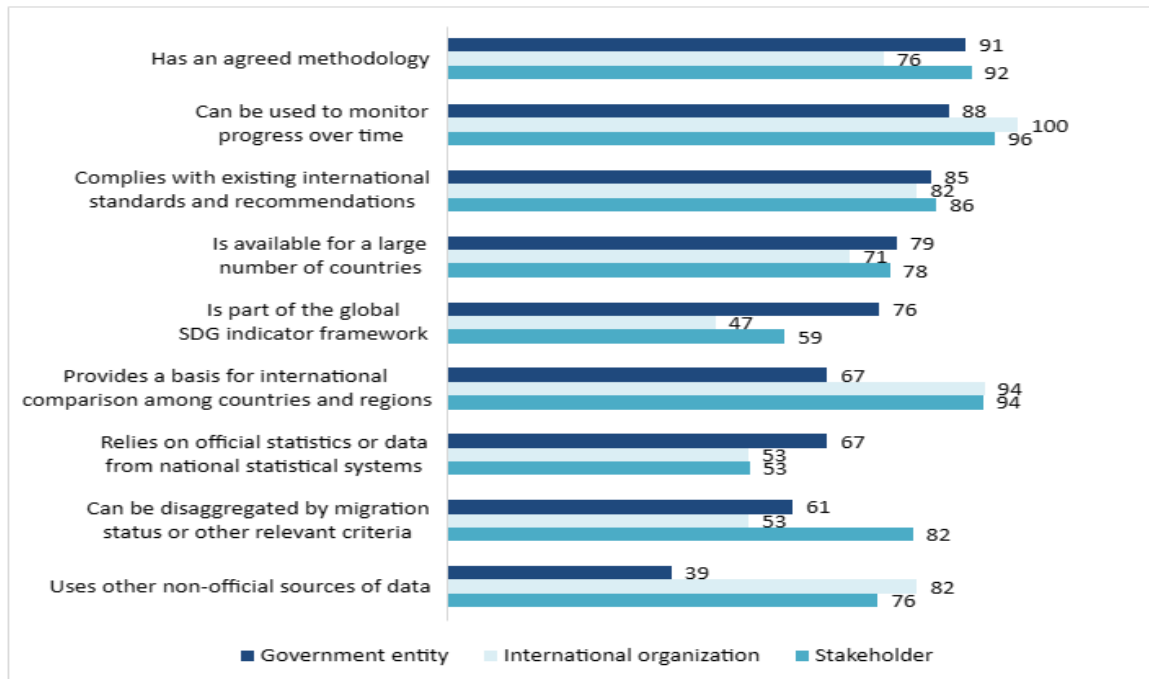
Note: The sub-questions are ordered based on the share of responses "Agree" by government entities

Annex I: Entities responding to the questionnaire

Government entities	International organizations[6]	Stakeholders
• Antigua and Barbuda • Argentina • Azerbaijan • Belarus • Bolivia (Plurinational State of) • Brunei Darussalam • Canada • Chile • Colombia • Ecuador • El Salvador • Eswatini • Fiji • Germany • Greece • Guatemala • Indonesia • Iraq • Kenya • Lithuania • Mexico • Morocco • Netherlands • Nigeria • Peru • Sierra Leone • Slovenia • South Africa • Sweden • Thailand • United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland • United States of America • Viet Nam	• European Commission • Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) • International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) • International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) • International Labour Organization (ILO) • International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) • Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) • Platform on Disaster Displacement (hosted by UNOPS) • United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) • United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) • UN Women • United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) • United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) • United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) • United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) • UNICEF • World Health Organization (WHO)	• Academic Council on the United Nations System • Act for Peace • Ahsania Mission Children City • Albanian Rehabilitation Center for Trauma and Torture • Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD) • Association Kirikou • Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) • Broadridge • Caritas • Centre for Global Development • Center for Human Rights and Immigrant Citizenship • Centre for Youths Integrated Development (CYID) • Centro de Atención a la Familia Migrante Indígena, CAFAMI/ Bloque Latinoamericano Sobre Migración • Co-ordination on Action Research on AIDS and Mobility in Asia (CARAM Asia) • Defensoría del Pueblo de la Nación • Deloitte • Eurasylum • Fundación Cepaim • Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) • Fundación Panamericana para el Desarrollo (PADF) • Forum Transregionale Studien • Institute of Informatics and Development (IID) • International Center for Not-for-Profit Law • International Detention Coalition (IDC) • International Migration Research Centre (IMRC) • International Organization for Employers • International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) • Latinas en Poder • MAP Foundation

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[6] As co-leads of the workstream, IOM and UN DESA chose not to participate in this activity so as not to bias the outcome.

		- Mayor Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY) - Mayors Migration Council - McGill University - Metropolis - Migrant Rights Initiative - Migration Policy Institute (MPI) - Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) - Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS) - Oxfam - People Forum for Human Rights - South Africa Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) - SPEAK Trust - Union des Nations pour l'Enseignement, la science Universelle et les Droits de l'Homme (UNESU) - Union Nationale des Syndicats Autonomes du Sénégal (UNSAS) - Union des Syndicats des Travailleurs du Niger (USTN) - University of London - Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo (VIS) - Women in Migration Network (WIMN) - World Education Services (WES) - Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YPFP)