

Summary

3rd virtual townhall briefing between the co-facilitators of the IMRF Progress Declaration and stakeholders and UN entities

6 April 2022

The third virtual townhall briefing with stakeholders and UN entities on the IMRF Progress Declaration convened by the co-facilitators, H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima and H.E. Mr. Olivier Maes, Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh and Luxembourg to the UN in New York respectively, took place today, on Wednesday, 6 April 2022. It was attended by over 150 participants, and, in total, 28 stakeholders and UN entities took the floor.

The co-facilitators introduced the revised draft of the IMRF Progress Declaration and some of the key changes that have been made in REV1. During the briefing, several participants welcomed the revised draft and the incorporation of inputs on a wide range of issues shared by stakeholders during the consultations on the zero draft.

Stakeholders welcomed additional and strengthened language on migrant children but raised concerns about a potential regression on the issue of ending child immigration detention in the revised text, underlining that detention is never in the best interest of the child and that children must be referred to as right holders and not only considered in situations of vulnerability.

Participants reiterated the call to strengthen the reference to the international core labor standards and include language promoting freedom of association and collective bargaining. They commended the language on wage theft and called for these references to remain in the final text. They further asked for the reinstatement of the reference to decent work regardless of migration status and for the inclusion of the importance of social dialogue, the role of social partners, as well as to the need to invest in skills development. They also commended the explicit recognition of systemic racism, as well as of precarious conditions that migrant face.

Stakeholders called for further elaboration on regularization mechanisms in the revised draft and for strengthened language on regular pathways, including in the context of climate change and environmental degradation, recognizing the need for adaptation measures to prepare for impacts of climate change as well as the need for coherence across relevant policies and frameworks, namely the GCM, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.

Participants also called for greater attention to indigenous people and people with disabilities in the revised draft. They welcomed the reference to the meaningful participation of migrants in policy development but stressed the need for the section on commitments and actions to further capture the essential role played by the diaspora. Some stakeholders also suggested that the section on progress, gaps and challenges be shortened to allow greater focus on actions and commitments to accelerate implementation of the GCM.

Throughout the meeting, the importance of developing indicators as an indispensable tool to review the implementation of the GCM has been raised several times and some participants encouraged to draw on existing tools such as the Migration Governance Indicators.

Additional topics covered were: link between disembarkation and commitment to saving lives/ preventing loss of lives; inclusion of migrant women worker issues; role of local actors in developing and implementing migration policies; positive impacts of remittances; role of digital technology in access to justice for migrants.

The second reading of the IMRF Progress Declaration will take place on Thursday, 7 April and Friday, 8 April 2022 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The deadline to submit written inputs on REV1 is COB Friday, 8 April 2022. Stakeholders and UN entities can send inputs to julie.oppermann@mae.etat.lu and nirupam.devnath@mofa.gov.bd, or post them in the dedicated [discussion space](#). The fourth townhall briefing with stakeholders and UN entities is scheduled for Wednesday, 20 April 2022 time TBC.