
Summary Report

UNECE Stakeholder Pre-consultation on the Second Round of Regional Reviews of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Tuesday, 14 November 2023
11:00 am - 12:30 pm (Geneva)
ZOOM online platform

OVERVIEW

On 14 November 2023, the UN Network on Migration (Network) facilitated a pre-consultation virtual meeting for stakeholders¹ from across the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region on [the second round of Regional Reviews](#) of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM). This first pre-consultation marks the beginning of a series of discussions with stakeholders in the UNECE region, which will contribute to [the UNECE² Regional Review](#) meeting, scheduled to take place as a one-day meeting on 11 March 2024 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The purpose of this meeting was to facilitate discussion and information-sharing between the UN Network on Migration and stakeholders on the process ahead of the UNECE Regional Review and Multi-stakeholder meeting and to initiate thematic discussions pertaining to the GCM. Additionally, attention was given to the process of gathering input from stakeholders.

This pre-consultation was attended by 111 civil society organizations and stakeholders, representing the different sectors listed in [para. 44](#) of the GCM (migrants, migrant and diaspora organizations, trade unions, faith-based organizations and the private sector, local authorities and communities, academia, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement). Additionally, members of the Network actively engaged in this meeting, with regional Network members from the UNECE region providing an overview of forthcoming developments related to the processes with Member States as well as specific entry points and planned activities with stakeholders.

This summary report outlines key points raised during the meeting.

¹ Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 73/195, paragraph 44:

“We will implement the Global Compact in cooperation and partnership with migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders”.

² Member States include the countries of Europe, but also countries in North America (Canada and United States), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and Western Asia (Israel). UNECE, “Geographical Scope,” United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, <https://unece.org/geographical-scope>

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND ON STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ROADMAP IN THE REGIONAL REVIEWS

Speaker: Monami Maulik, Civil Society Liaison Officer, United Nations Network on Migration secretariat

- The UN Network on Migration hosted the two Global Stakeholder Consultations on the second round of Regional Reviews of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration on 31 October 2023 for the African, UNECE, Latin-American and Caribbean regions, and on 1 November 2023 for the Asia-Pacific and Middle East-North Africa regions. These Global Stakeholder Consultations marked the initiation of the Regional Review process, particularly focusing on how to best optimize stakeholder participation and engagement in the process. Insights were shared by representatives of the Regional Network in all five regions, along with initial feedback and recommendations from stakeholders across all the regions.
- A guidance note for meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders in the second round of Regional Reviews of the GCM and their preparatory processes is available [here](#).
- An overall roadmap on stakeholder engagement in Regional Review processes in 2023-2025 is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Arabic](#), and [Spanish](#).
- As the initial step in the roadmap for each region and its respective Regional Reviews, a series of pre-consultations is being organized by the Network Secretariat in each of the five regions, occurring at least 12 weeks before each Regional Review meeting. These pre-consultations will focus on gathering inputs on GCM thematic priorities and the participation process early enough to inform the development of the agenda for the Multi-stakeholder consultation and the Regional Review meeting.
- Following the pre-consultation series, additional consultations focusing on specific thematic areas will be conducted in each region, culminating in a one-day hybrid or in-person multi-stakeholder consultation held at least one day prior to each Regional Review meeting.
- In addition to the consultations, the Network will launch five [discussion spaces](#), one for each region, on the [Migration Network Hub](#) in January 2024. The discussion spaces will be a place where stakeholders may continually post feedback, recommendations, data, and reports on the implementation of GCM objectives and migration policy. An analysis paper of submissions for each regional Discussion Space will be presented before each Regional Review.

II. GCM REGIONAL REVIEW IN THE UNECE REGION: TIMELINE AND ROADMAP

Speaker: Amr Taha, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Advisor, IOM Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- The Regional Review meeting of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration for Europe is scheduled to take place as a one-day meeting on 11 March 2024, back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region.
- The UN ECE region includes the participation of Central Asia, Canada and the United States.

- This pre-consultation aims to provide detailed information to shape the agenda of the Regional Review along with the Roundtable discussions, as well as for the preceding multi-stakeholder consultation that will take place on the morning of the Regional Review meeting on 11 March 2024.
- For the second round of the GCM Regional Review, voluntary national reports by Member States will not be requested, although they are still welcome. Instead, Member States, stakeholders, and Network members may co-organize “[GCM Talks](#)” and other preparatory consultations as peer-learning exchanges to continue discussions on how best to implement the GCM and to highlight sector-specific or thematic priorities.
- Three GCM talks have already been held in the UNECE region to understand the priorities of stakeholders and Member States and to support the preparations:
 - [Good practices, challenges and gaps on Bilateral Labour Migrations Agreements \(BLMA\), including Skills Mobility Partnerships \(SMP\)](#), which was organised by the Kingdom of Morocco together with GCM Champion countries, with the support of IOM. Discussions encouraged the exchange of ideas, identifying key challenges or issues that require attention, and helped initiating [pledges](#) and identifying practices for inclusion on the [Migration Network Hub](#);
 - [Capitalising on Human Mobility for the Advancement of Regional Cooperation and the Development of Our Societies](#), which took place back-to-back with the Almaty Process’ Senior Officials Meeting, saw the participation of Member States, UN agencies, and civil society and stakeholder representatives.
 - [Migration and adaptation in the context of climate change](#), which was co-hosted by the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and IOM UK along with the participation of stakeholder groups based in the United Kingdom. Speakers explored ways in which migrants can be part of the solution to climate change if included in adaptation, planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- Stakeholders can submit requests to organise GCM talks [here](#).
- Two additional consultations for stakeholders are scheduled to take place. A hybrid thematic consultation for the UNECE region will take place at the end of January 2024, coinciding with the UN Migration Week and the Network Annual Meeting. This consultation will specifically focus on roundtables clusters 1 and 2. In February, a second (online) thematic consultation on roundtable clusters 2 and 4 will follow. The primary objective of these upcoming pre-consultations is to shape the discussions of the four thematic roundtables during the Regional Review.
- The thematic roundtables will be organized on the same basis as the four roundtables of the IMRF³. For each thematic roundtable, a Member State speaker will start the discussion. Each discussion will include a stakeholder moderator and/or panelist.
- The outcome of the Regional Review Meeting will be a non-negotiated outcome report.

³ A/RES/73/326, para 21

- An open call for expressions of interest for the stakeholder Rapporteur will be initiated, for which migrant voices speakers are encouraged to apply. The selection process will be conducted by the Network, considering expressions of interest received, and with due regard to geographic and gender balance, ensuring representation by all relevant stakeholders. The Rapporteur’s responsibilities will be to convey the outcomes of the multi-stakeholder consultation at the opening of the intergovernmental meeting.
- Details of the registration process for stakeholders for the Multistakeholder consultation and the Regional Review will be shared in due time.

III. GCM THEMATIC PRIORITIES: CONTENT, PROCESS & OUTCOMES

The Roundtable discussions will focus on ⁴ :

- Session 1: GCM objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18
- Session 2: GCM objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13
- Session 3: GCM objectives 14, 15,16,19, 20 and 22
- Session 4: GCM objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23

Summary of key priorities and recommendations from stakeholders on content

- Stakeholders recommended including an assessment of progress and regression in the implementation of the GCM since the IMRF. This suggestion was made as a result of the need to concretely analyse government policies, including specific practices. This analysis would include the importance of capturing nuances of migration policies and paying attention to the reasons for progress, stagnation, and regression, including changes to legislation and funding structures. For example, it was suggested to review the Single Permit Directive to break the dependency on exploitative employers.
- Stakeholders reiterated the importance of a whole-of-society approach, with an emphasis on meaningful participation and engagement for all relevant stakeholders, including those with lived experiences, expertise, and leadership. There was specific emphasis on migrant, diaspora and local communities’ voices participation in policy setting.
- Stakeholders stressed the importance of assessing government budgets related to migration, including a recent decrease for funding supporting rescues at sea, and the need to increase funding to support integration and combating xenophobia.
- Recommendations were raised to consider the impact of the screening directive on racial profiling and child immigration detention within the context of the European Union (EU) New Pact on Migration and Asylum. Additionally, stakeholders highlighted the need to address alternatives to immigration detention.

⁴ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. "Draft provisional for the second sessions." January 2024.
https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Draft%20provisional%20agenda_GCM%20Regional%20Review_approved.pdf

- Stakeholders also stressed the importance of addressing EU legislative proposals that align with GCM objectives such as EU positions on reporting undocumented migrants for accessing services and related increased profiling by the police. Examining the issue of increased criminalization of migrants was stressed.
- Stakeholders proposed three main agenda items for the Regional Review meeting: saving lives, ensuring access to social services for all migrants irrespective of status, and involving migrants in decision-making processes.
- Regarding labor migration, stakeholders in the UNECE region stressed the relevance of thinking about the increasing recruitment of migrant workers into the care economy. They called for more inclusion of trade unions in discussions and a stronger social dialogue between governments and other stakeholders.
- Stakeholders mentioned the development of a civil society network in Spain and Greece monitoring government progress on GCM implementation and provided examples.

Summary of key priorities, recommendations, and questions from stakeholders on process and outcomes

- Stakeholders emphasized that the importance of a successful Regional Review would be achieved by aiming to set an ambitious agenda for using the GCM to reduce the human costs of current migration policies. This includes incentivizing and driving a human rights-based implementation of the GCM in a sustainable way, along with expanding the space for meaningful migrant participation in policy, development, and Reviews.
- Stakeholders echoed the benefits of optimizing online and hybrid consultations to allow for democratic participation, particularly by many stakeholders who can undertake little travel, also due to limited funding availability.
- Recognizing national and EU-level practices, stakeholders saw an opportunity for EU States to showcase successful practices. The region's active championing of civil society space and participation at the multilateral level can set a high ambition for the Regional Review, potentially serving as a model for other regions.
- Stakeholders viewed the multi-stakeholder consultation immediately preceding the Regional Review meeting as an opportunity to deliver key outcomes to Member States. The main discussion time would be during the two planned thematic cluster consultations prior. To facilitate meaningful engagement, a clear roadmap with information and timelines in multiple languages is essential for both oral and written contributions.
- To ensure meaningful engagement by Member States, stakeholders advocated for the Multi-stakeholder consultation to take place in the same room in the Palais des Nations as the Review meeting. Additionally, they stressed the importance of a hybrid event to accommodate diverse migration experiences and expertise, acknowledging that not everyone could travel.

- Stakeholders emphasized that, in addition to the rapporteur, there should be space for other civil society and stakeholders to participate as chairs, panelists, and speakers from the floor during the review.
- Stakeholders highlighted the need to broaden participation beyond those with ECOSOC accreditation, reflecting on the success of online participation during the COVID-19 pandemic in the first round of Regional Reviews and Network events. They called for removing limitations on participation, including through hybrid options, to maintain the inclusivity observed during online processes.
- Questions arose about the format, particularly regarding the absence of voluntary national reports by Member States. Stakeholders sought clarity on what Member States were expected to report and how the focus on regional reporting would be implemented, influencing discussions at the national level. ECE regional Network representatives emphasized the need to build more ongoing collaborative work among Member States and stakeholders in the European region, and clarified that while Member States will not be requested to submit reports – while these remain welcome – Member States will be encouraged to organise [GCM Talks](#) and other preparatory consultations as peer-learning exchanges to continue discussions on how best to implement the GCM and to highlight sector-specific or thematic priorities. GCM Talks are expected to produce summary reports, which will not only feed into the discussion at the Review itself, but will also be considered in the drafting of the Regional Review's outcome report.
- Advocating for a continuous process beyond 11 March 2023, stakeholders supported the idea of viewing the Regional Review as an ongoing process rather than a culmination event.
- Stakeholders suggested exploring the possibility of organizing linked events around online consultations, in a format similar to the Global Refugee Forum, emphasizing the importance of additional discussions alongside GCM Talks.

Relevant documents and links

UN Network on Migration

UN Network on Migration, "Civil society and stakeholders" page
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/civil-society-and-stakeholders>

UN Network on Migration, "per region" page
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-and-regional-networks>

Calendar of Events (regularly updated)
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/calendar-events-2023>

Regional Reviews

GCM Regional Review Meeting Draft Concept Note and Agenda
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/2024-01-18%20Final%20Draft%20Concept%20Note%20and%20Agenda%20GCM%20RR%202024.pdf>

Roadmap Regional Review 2024-2025
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/regional-reviews-2024>

Roadmap on Stakeholder Engagement in GCM Regional Review
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Roadmap%20on%20Stakeholder%20engagement%20in%20the%20GCM%20Regional%20Reviews%202024%5B25%5D.pdf>

Migration Network Hub

Migration Network Hub
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/hub>

GCM Regional Review for UNECE Stakeholder Discussion Space
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/hub/discussion-space/regional-reviews/content/europe-north-america-regional-review-stakeholder>

Practice Repository on the Migration Network Hub – "Share a good practice"
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/hub/repository-of-practices/about>

GCM

Global Compact for Migration (A/RES/73/195)
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/global-compact-migration-follow-and-review>

GCM Talks
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/gcmtalks>

Pledging initiative – Submission form
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/submit-pledges>

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