

Global Online Peer Learning Exchange

Highlighting Alternatives to Detention in the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)

Thursday, 27 January 2022, 14:30 – 17:30 (CET)

The event is co-hosted by the UN Network on Migration Working Group on Alternatives to Detention and the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Nigeria, Portugal and Thailand in Geneva

Concept Note

Background and Rationale

Following on from the [first peer learning exchange](#) on 17 November 2020, and the [second peer learning exchange](#) on 29 June 2021, we are planning a third online global peer learning exchange which will focus on opportunities to highlight alternatives to immigration detention in the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and how to use the Forum for accelerating progression implementing Objective 13 of the [Global Compact for Migration](#) (GCM).

In the lead up to the IMRF, this online meeting will bring together governments from all regions and provide an open space to discuss experiences with regards to their implementation of Objective 13, share challenges and concerns, identify promising practices, and explore opportunities for continued multi-stakeholder cooperation and whole of government approaches, as well as focusing on the pledging process and pledges to make in relation to Objective 13.

There will be two panels prompting our discussion.

The first panel will focus on “Taking stock of progress on ATD since the adoption of the GCM,” which will include a presentation by an advocate with lived experience of immigration detention on key issues, and speakers on national progress on ATD since our first peer learning meeting. The International Detention Coalition (IDC) will present on the findings of their ATD mapping projects and reflect on progress on Objective 13 implementation. This panel will generate a space to reflect on what has been achieved, how peer learning can support progress, what are the challenges and gaps to sustain and scale up ATD, and what opportunities 2022 presents.

The second panel will focus on creating a “Roadmap towards further advances on Objective 13 in the IMRF and beyond” and will include presentations by a youth advocate on what is at stake, and by governments and other stakeholders on their planning concerning Objective 13 in the lead-up to the IMRF. This panel will provide opportunities to share and consider pledges that would consolidate progress on Objective 13 while setting up a roadmap for the IMRF and beyond. The aim will be for that roadmap to fully activate peer learning potential and whole-of- government and whole-of-society approaches towards realising the human rights of migrants, prioritizing non-custodial alternatives to detention that are in line with international law, and working to end immigration detention of children.

This will be a closed meeting under the Chatham House Rule for representatives from relevant governmental departments at national, regional and global level convened by the UN Network on Migration Working Group on Alternatives to Immigration Detention, the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Nigeria, Portugal and Thailand in Geneva.

Agenda

14:30 Opening remarks by co-hosts

- *Mr. Jonathan Prentice - Head of Secretariat for the UN Network on Migration*
- *H.E. Mrs. María Juliana Ruiz Sandoval, First Lady of Colombia*

14:45 Session I - Taking stock of progress on alternatives to detention since the adoption of the GCM

Moderated by Mr. Patrick Eba, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

Panel:

- *Mr. Mishka Pillay - Campaigner and advocate with lived experience*
- *Ms. Carolina Gottardo, Executive Director, International Detention Coalition*
- *Ms. Demet Açı̇k - Regional Manager, Alternatives to Detention Department, Directorate-General Immigration, Government of Belgium*

15:15 Q & A and interventions from government participants

15:40 BREAK/Short videos

15:50 Session II – Roadmap towards further advances on Objective 13 in the IMRF and beyond

Moderated by Ms. Verena Knaus, Global Lead, Migration and Displacement, UNICEF

Scene-setter: Ms. Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General, IOM

Panel:

- *Veronica Montoya, Migrant rights activist, UN Major Group for Children and Youth*
- *Mr. Worrawat Smuthkalin, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN in Geneva*
- *Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary-General of UCLG Africa (United Cities and Local Governments)*

16:45 Q & A and interventions from government participants

17:20 Closing Remarks

- *Mr. Mario Martins, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN in Geneva*

Participation

All States are invited. Participation by government representatives working in capitals at the technical level on migration management and migration-related detention issues is encouraged.

Representatives of the UN Migration Network Working Group on Alternatives to Immigration Detention will participate to facilitate the exchange and contribute their specific expertise, as well as some external speakers.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

The UN Network on Migration Working Group on Alternatives to Immigration Detention

The UN Migration Network Working Group on Alternatives to Detention aims to provide technical assistance to States to facilitate the practical application of non-custodial community-based alternatives to immigration detention that are in line with international law, respect the human rights of migrants and respond to the migration governance needs of governments.

In April 2020, the Working Group published a policy brief on COVID-19 & Immigration Detention to support States and other stakeholders in preventing and responding to COVID-19 by prioritizing alternatives to immigration detention and operationalizing the Global Compact for Migration. In February 2021, the Working Group produced an Annex updating on developments since the policy brief.

For resources produced by the Working Group: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/thematic-working-group-2-alternatives-detention>

The Working Group is co-led by UNHCR, UNICEF and the International Detention Coalition (IDC). Members of the Working Group include: Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), Asylum Access Thailand, Better Care Network, Bloque Latinoamericano, Cornell Law School, Global Detention Project (GDP) (observer), HOST International, Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts, International Social Service (ISS), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (observer), Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR), Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY).