

REPORT

Consultation with Academia in preparation for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Regional Review for Africa

24 June 2021

11:00AM-12:30PM Cairo time (ZOOM)

I- Introduction:

On the 24th of June 2021, a consultation with academia was jointly organized by **the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force (NAMMTF)**, in coordination with **the UN Network Secretariat** in preparation for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Regional Review for Africa. Seven prominent academics and migration experts from the North Africa region gathered to discuss emerging research priorities and most updated migration trends and data with regards to the progress of the GCM implementation by North African countries in light of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This exchange aimed to formulate recommendations to enhance the contributions of research and academia in the formulation of evidence-based migration policies to address the current research; it also aimed to review and prioritize the findings of the GCM Multi-Stakeholder online survey carried out for the Arab states to highlight and unpack the specific needs, challenges, opportunities and recommendations for the North African Region from the perspective of academic stakeholders. This consultation also aimed to facilitate the formulation of key findings and recommendations to pave the way and further contribute towards the 2022 International Migration Review Forum as well as the common goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Mrs. Carmela Godeau, Regional Director at IOM for the Middle East and North Africa, opened the consultation highlighting IOM's ongoing advocacy for an inclusive and whole-of-society approach to the implementation of the GCM that recognizes the multi-dimensional and transnational nature of migration. She continued to note that different stakeholders involved in the implementation of the GCM must continue ensuring that migrants are included in the post-COVID recovery plans. In this regard, representatives from Academia have a critical role to play, analyzing data and presenting recommendations that advise decision makers in the formulation of evidence-based policies, and contributing to defend the universal and inalienable rights of migrants. She concluded that Representatives from Academia continue to be pioneers in leading research and developing innovative ideas and practices that will play an essential role in ensuring that "no one is left behind".

The opening remarks were followed by two scene-setting presentations; one by **Ms. Monami Maulik**, Civil Society Liaison Officer at the UN Network Secretariat on the GCM principles, objectives, and its follow up and review. **Ms. Maulik** stated that the GCM is an international and non-binding instrument for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, rooted in the Sustainable Development Goals with an aspirational approach to enhance international cooperation in the area of global migration governance. In addition, she gave an overview of the 10 guiding principles of the GCM which are quite comprehensive and promote a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach along with gender responsive, child sensitive and people-centered approaches. Furthermore, she emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and their active contribution to the GCM Process with Academic stakeholders being key members in the implementation of the GCM.

The second presentation was by **Dr. Ayman Zohry**, Expert on Population and Migration Studies and Rapporteur during the GCM Multi-Stakeholder Consultation for the Arab region on the findings and key messages from the Multi-stakeholder Report and Consultation for the Arab Region. **Dr. Zohry** presented the [GCM Multi-Stakeholder Online Survey](#) conducted for the Arab Regional Review; he mentioned that the situation of migrants in North African countries had improved after the adoption of the GCM in 2018; the objectives where more efforts were needed were identified as **Objective 1** on data, **Objective 2** on minimizing adverse drivers and **Objective 6** on recruitment and decent work. He continued that stakeholders reported being mostly engaged by their government in the implementation of the following objectives: **1, 7, 15, 6, 17, 4 and 3.**

Gaps and challenges included an array of issues, such as the lack of political will, lack of coordination between actors and stakeholders, insufficient resources to implement the GCM objectives, lack of reliable data and information, lack of comprehensive national policies for migration in some countries, the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic on receiving countries and the livelihood of migrants and refugees as well as the political instability in the region.

Dr. Zohry then went over the gaps and policy recommendations highlighting the need for consistency between national laws and international frameworks for the protection of migrants and ensuring that the rule of law and equality applies to all, including migrants. He added that there was a need to develop gender-sensitive migrant protection policies, including wage protection and protection from violence and to combat discrimination and facilitate remittance flows. Furthermore, he emphasized the role of cities in migration governance and underscored the need to involve local bodies in the development and implementation of migration policies. He mentioned lastly, that addressing the negative drivers of migration, including conflicts, wars and bad governance was paramount.

II- Interventions from the floor:

In the second part of the consultation, prominent academics from the region made their interventions; **Dr. Zohry** also moderated the discussion and introduced the following set of guiding questions:

- What are some of the most recent migration trends, key research gaps and emerging opportunities for the North Africa region?
- How has COVID-19 affected migration and mobility in North Africa? What data can you share with us?
- How have you engaged so far at the national and regional levels with regards to the GCM implementation, review and follow up?
- How would you describe the progress of the GCM implementation in your country/region and which objectives made the most progress since the adoption of the GCM in December 2018?
- Which objectives require further efforts and support? What type of support is needed?

Based on the discussions and interventions, and for the purpose of summarizing key messages, the following challenges and recommendations were listed under specific GCM objectives and were brought up throughout the consultation.

GCM objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

GCM Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

It was stated that at the regional level, the Household International Migration Surveys in the Mediterranean countries (MED-HIMS) study has been implemented in several North African countries including Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. It was also highlighted that the lack of data collection related to migration, is considered a hindrance to the work and achievements of researchers and academics and that most data is accessed and is provided by international organizations such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).

Furthermore, it was stated that in Algeria for example, demographers do not take into account migration trends while elaborating their population strategies. The lack of reliable information on population movements has led to a form of myopia among demographers in the region, who continue to ignore migration in population projections. It was recommended to set up systems to collect information on the various migratory flows, whether regular or irregular, at both the national and regional levels and to create a platform for the exchange of statistical data notably now that the African Migration Observatory was established in Rabat.

GCM objective 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

It was highlighted that the persistence of demographic growth, differences in economic development and the exacerbation of armed conflicts and political instability in neighboring countries as well as climate change and environmental degradation lead us to believe that migratory flows and population movements within the region will not fade in the medium term.

It was explained that the failure to address the root causes of migration in Africa such as political conflicts, global warming and poverty will continue to fuel migratory flows on increasing deadly routes. In fact, this weighs heavily on the regions and countries of departure as well as on the transit countries of North Africa, which are caught in the crossfire with a moral obligation to assist migrants from Africa on one side and obligations to the EU and its Member States through the outsourcing of border control to third countries in the region on the other side.

GCM objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

GCM objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

It was noted that the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Fair Employment Integrated Program (FAIR) aims to contribute to the promotion of fair employment practices across migration corridors in North

Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. As of now, migration policy is dominated by administrative and penal restrictions which encourage informal recruitment, trafficking in persons and exploitation.

It was stressed that Tunisia, for example, has not yet ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, even though it has ratified all other major international treaties on human rights. It was recommended to ratify this convention and to remove criminal sanctions and dissociate the duration of the residence permit from the work permit.

GCM objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

GCM objective 16: Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

It was stated that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) adopted in 2018, is an important commitment by governments to adopt a people-centered and human rights-based approach to migration policy. It comes in the wake of the evolution of international relations in the world and raises a real question about our cultural values and principles which contribute to the building of an inclusive world, imbued with the ideals of democracy, a respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and encourage the fight against social exclusion of groups. A society that cares about human rights recognizes the right to non-discrimination for all, including migrants, asylum seekers and their family members, by creating conditions that allow them to lead a full and satisfying life. In the context of Tunisia for instance, it was stressed that migration is not a handicap for the economy and that on the contrary, can be considered an opportunity.

It was highlighted that Cairo University established a migration unit that was launched in May 2021. The unit sheds light on migration and its social and political impacts and, with the encouragement and support of the government, has undertaken several efforts to examine the financial and economic aspects of migration, which has many positive points that must be underscored. Furthermore, it was added that it is important to integrate migrants into society and that with the correct guidance and economic support, the area of transit can become an area of stability. The example of Syrian refugees in Egypt was provided where they contribute to fueling the economy by creating job opportunities for many refugees and Egyptian nationals.

GCM objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation & global partnerships for safe, orderly & regular migration

The cross-border dimension of migration and the need to expand the membership of regional networks to include a large number of stakeholders from countries of origin, transit and destination was emphasized. Furthermore, the need to pool financial means and human capital in order to carry out scientific research on migration and to further work on sharing these results through increased coordination was highlighted; this in turn would serve to avoid redundant efforts and optimize tangible results.

The organization of a seminar on the state of research on migration in North Africa was recommended, which should allow on one hand, to take stock of the state of knowledge in the field of international migration by country, and on the other, to identify and mobilize a common theme and pathway for the North African scientific community. The results cannot be effective if they are not based on scientific work and research carried out by institutions, universities, specialized organizations or associations, organized in a network. It was recommended and encouraged to develop networking and collaboration platforms between researchers from different disciplines, institutions and countries to allow the development of research in the field of migration for the long term.

It was noted that when faced with these new economic, social, legal, political and climatic conditions, the field covered by the study of international migration becomes very vast and the topic of migration could be applied to all disciplinary fields of human and social sciences, which requires a multidisciplinary approach. It is a complex and global issue that can only be analyzed and resolved if all the elements of this long chain of inter-actors are actively integrated. This requires that the mobility dynamic be analyzed and understood from beginning (with the problems of underdevelopment, human rights, socio-economic inequalities, etc.) to end, while integrating the analysis from areas of transit and destination that the countries of North Africa are becoming.

Over the past decade, a great deal of research on migration issues has been carried out by the various universities of the subregion, in relation to the development of migration and the globalization of migration flows. This research, which is often of high quality, suffers however, from being too often confined to its local and/or national dimension, and thus retains more specificities as opposed to common issues. Although local and national contexts play an essential role, it is nevertheless true that migration processes take place on a scale that goes beyond national borders. Lastly, it was recommended that knowledge of the determinants of migration, its dynamics and implications, socio-economic effects, and impact on rights, needs to be developed around a specific theme and through a multidisciplinary approach.

III- Conclusion:

Mr. Kristina Mejo, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer and Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, started her closing remarks by thanking everyone for their valuable and insightful contributions which represent an important milestone ahead of the GCM Regional Review for Africa and mark an important step towards the International Migration Review Forum in 2022, the 2030 Agenda and the overall goals of achieving safe, orderly and regular migration and leaving no one behind.

She continued by highlighting the importance of academic stakeholders across the North Africa region who provided a comprehensive overview of current migration trends, key research gaps and emerging opportunities for the North Africa region and its respective countries. Academic experts continue to support governments in promoting knowledge and good practices in migration governance.

She noted that IOM will continue to collaborate with academic institutions to produce high-quality research to further understand the needs of migrants, displaced populations, host communities and governments, especially in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. She concluded by stating that only by working together through a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, can we ensure that safe, orderly and regular migration is achieved and that no one is left behind.

IV- Links to different materials of the event:

You may access the Concept notes in English, French and Arabic: [HERE](#)

V- Annex: List of Speakers

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Dr. Ahmed Gamal El-Din</p> | <p>Associate Professor of Development and Migration and a co-founder and Coordinator of the M.Sc. in Gender and Migration at the Regional Institute of Gender, Diversity, Peace and Rights of Ahfad University for Women, Sudan.</p> |
| <p>Dr. Faiza Al-Basha</p> | <p>Head of the Criminal Law section at the faculty of law, University of Tripoli, Libya</p> |
| <p>Dr. Mohamed Saib Musette</p> | <p>Sociologist, researcher, and team leader of the "Migration and Mobility" team at the Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD) in Algiers, Algeria</p> |
| <p>Dr. Nacer el Din Hammouda</p> | <p>Senior Researcher, Statistician and Economist at the Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD) in Algiers, Algeria.</p> |
| <p>Dr. Hatem Kotrane</p> | <p>Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Juridical, Political and Social Sciences at the University of Carthage in Tunis and Past Member and Vice President of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.</p> |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Dr. Hassen Boubakri | Professor of Geography at the University of Sousse and President of the Tunis Center for Migration and Asylum (CeTuMA) with over 25 years of experience in the field of migration |
| Dr. Mohamed Charef | Head of the Regional Observatory of Migration Spaces & Societies (ORMES) at the Ibn Zohr University in Morocco and member of the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW). |
| Dr. Adla Raghav | Professor of Economic and Director of CERFS at Cairo University, Egypt |