

GCM Champion countries - technical meeting

23 August 2022

The Champion countries held their first meeting after the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). The meeting was attended by more than 40 participants representing 17 Champion countries as well as UN Network entities. The meeting aimed at brainstorming the role of Champion countries post-IMRF and discussing ways forward in the next phase of the GCM implementation, follow-up and review. A short survey had been prepared for the Champions' inputs to guide the planning together.

Main elements

- There was broad agreement as to the important and visible roles Champion countries played in the run-up to and at the IMRF. Key achievements included coordination during the negotiations processes of the Progress Declaration, and the joint statements and other preparatory efforts in the build-up to the IMRF and during the Forum. The Champions' Initiative was described as a key platform for solidarity, exchange, advocacy, and collaboration as well as an important tool to mobilize support for the GCM. Appreciation was expressed for the collaboration amongst the Champions and with the Network.
- Champions countries reiterated their commitment to the initiative; there is a clear need to maintain momentum.
- The informality, flexibility, and open-ended approach of the initiative was considered key. Some proposed organizing the initiative with better defined objectives and priorities while preserving the flexibility of the group. Several suggestions included:
 - Establishing regional priorities especially in view of the preparations for the regional reviews;
 - Forming a nucleus of likeminded and regionally close champions; and,
 - Linking with other existing platforms and efforts to maximize impacts.
- The priorities defined by the Progress Declaration were considered a good basis moving forward. Several countries further shared several priorities such as climate, health; the promotion of evidence based public discourse; and saving lives in establishing coordinated national efforts on missing migrants.
- Champions were invited to share ideas and explore the rapporteur roles for Guiding Principles (following the examples of Canada and Colombia), particularly in the build up to the regional reviews, without compromising the comprehensiveness of the GCM.

- Champions highlighted the importance promoting exchange of good practices and peer learning, including through the Migration Network Hub.
- Some Champions proposed the usefulness of the initiative's convening role, including e.g. with other regional groups and platforms;
- Champions emphasized their advocacy role and the importance of strengthening efforts in this area through notably:
 - Galvanizing international support by continuing to advocate for GCM implementation with countries outside of the Champions group;
 - Promoting more joint statements of Champions to mobilize support for specific areas or convening workshops and other events in relevant global fora;
 - Supporting the inclusion of migration related language in other processes at other multilateral processes and relevant fora;
 - Promoting the implementation of the GCM through bilateral and multilateral engagements; and,
 - Advocating at national level with various stakeholders and domestic counterparts to further align migration work with the GCM
- Champions made several requests to the Network, including a number of action points in the short term:
 - Developing a catalogue of Champion activities or achievements to date;
 - Fleshing out a calendar of key relevant events to facilitate planning;
 - Organizing information briefings for new delegates and points of contacts;
 - Keeping both Geneva and New York points of contact in the loop of exchanges; and,
 - Supporting increased visibility and communication on Champions activities

With thanks to those who have done so, the Champions were encouraged to share suggestions through the circulated survey: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LSaIFsjtEO9brzknI5hhuwlneLO9plAipoDcGcoW9BUM1JVnjRBNU1YWINHQk5KNDVTODVMSIBKWi4u>.