



**Summary of the Fourth Annual Meeting of the
UN Network on Migration
18-19 October 2022
Palais des Nations, Geneva (hybrid)**

Overview

The UN Network on Migration (Network) held its fourth annual meeting on 18-19 October at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. There were 167 in-person participants as well as 542 online participants throughout, representing the Network, civil society and other stakeholders, as well as Member States (on the second day), came together in person and on-line to discuss: (a) the draft Network workplan of activities for 2022-2024; (ii) implementation of the GCM at regional and national levels including through relevant networks; and, (iii) next steps.

This short note summarises the discussions raised during each session.

A recording of the annual meeting, along with the agenda and copies of statements can be found on the Network website: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/meeting/annual-meetings/fourth-annual-meeting-2022>.

SESSION I: KEY THEMATIC PRIORITIES FROM THE NETWORK'S 2022-2024 WORKPLAN

Opening Remarks by Mr. António Vitorino, the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration:
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Coordinator%26%23039%3Bs%20opening%20remarks%2018%20Oct%20-%20checked%5B38%5D.pdf>

Opening Remarks by Ms. Bisaya Rai Shrestha, Founder and Chairperson, Returnee Women Migrant Workers Group (AMKAS) Nepal
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Bijaya%20Rai%20Speech-Geneva%202022%20MM-%20Final.pdf>

- Member States continue to see the Network as a key vehicle to provide support and guidance in implementing the GCM.
- Clarity on coherence across the different levels of the Network is needed, including through empowering regional networks to provide support to country networks and improve guidance and support at global level.
- Partnerships with stakeholders and others need to be diversified to help implement the GCM and deliver impact, particularly with grass-roots organizations, youth and migrant associations. It was recommended that the Network be more proactive at regional and national levels and provide spaces for civil society to have exchanges with Member States in order to bring practical and realistic actions to the ground.
- [The draft Network workplan](#) 2022-2024 was introduced, representing key areas of work emanating from last May's International Migration Review Forum, including new mandates from the Progress Declaration. During the session, co-leads of various workstreams introduced the proposed work for the following areas: missing migrants and humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress; indicators to review progress related to GCM

implementation; climate change and migration; and smuggling of migrants. Participants were encouraged to signal their interest in areas of work in which they wish to participate.

- The discussion on missing migrants and humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress focused on the importance of improving cooperation to strengthen assistance including on forensics, identification and family tracing; and standardizing and harmonizing data collection. Some of the key aspects of this work will include bilateral cooperation to map disappearances; and tapping into existing regional cooperation for exchange of information and good practices.
- The discussion on indicators focused on the need for such indicators to be fit for purpose and effective, as well as useful for governments and civil society. It will be key to have meaningful participation of migrants in policies that affect them in the indicators work. It is important to synergize work with other platforms to make sure existing work is captured and duplication avoided. This also applies to the definition of scope. Indicators need to contain an aspect of impact.
- In both the humanitarian and indicators work, co-leads advised that there will be an extensive consultation process that will be launched later this year to help inform the work. Discussions also highlighted that the mandated activities of the Progress Declaration provide an opportunity for operational responses as well as recommendations.
- The Network's proposed work on climate change aims to develop stronger links between existing UN processes that need to work together to improve migration realities. The Task Force on Displacement will develop guidelines for States on climate mobility; it is critical that these build synergies with the GCM. The Network will also bring this work to conversations in COP 27. Regular pathways and climate are unique to the GCM, and it was suggested to mainstream regular pathways in many thematic areas of the workplan as there are many implications across the board.
- The Network's proposed work on smuggling will make distinct the difference between smuggling and trafficking, with the smuggling work focusing more on migrants' rights and protection and less so on prosecution and criminalization. A challenge to tackle is the very nature of the vulnerability migrants face: as most of the violations happen in transit, difficulties in determining the competent jurisdiction are a barrier to accessing justice and remedy.

SESSION II: COUNTRY AND REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GCM

- Many recognized that the linkages between regional and country networks need to be strong. Country Networks are the primary entry point for Member States, but international migration occurs within and between regions. In some regions, internal platforms were being established for communication between country Networks and regional Networks have developed workplans building on the IMRF and global Network workplan.
- The importance of capacitating country Networks to support governments was raised, with some country Networks providing examples of how this is being done. The Network-developed tools to support UNCTs and Governments were raised as avenues through which this support can be standardized.
- A stronger focus on implementation at the local level was also encouraged.
- The importance of collaboration between the global network and regional Networks was also emphasized. Priorities of the workplan are important guidance for regional and country Networks which need to be adapted to regional and country-specific priorities.

- Some regional Networks have the capacity to support and inform the global Network including through collaboration with the Network's Executive Committee. More periodic meetings between the levels of Networks were encouraged, including to create reporting opportunities, for example an achievement report that feeds into the Secretary-General's report. Some structured financial support would be needed for regional Networks.
- The importance of inter-regional dialogues and discussions was raised, with the Network potentially facilitating these together with stakeholders. Discussions could also focus on enhancing collaboration in key migration corridors, working also with Regional Consultative Processes.
- The role of diasporas was emphasized. The Network workplan should look at leveraging diaspora investment and financing for development, including how diaspora can engage with country and regional Networks.
- Similarly national remittances platforms that include the private sector exist in several countries and could be linked to country Networks, allowing an opening of a dialogue. Engagement of the private sector was deemed important, particularly of employers who can contribute to GCM implementation, for example on regular pathways, decent work, development of skills, and towards a positive narrative on migration. The importance of the GCM guiding principles on the whole of government and whole of society approaches were highlighted as being key in the framework of the upcoming regional reviews.
- On the workplan, participants stressed the climate change work, pressing for innovative ideas, including through remittances as a mitigator. A gender lens in all areas of work was suggested, including through gender rapporteurs. The workstreams on pathways and anti-discrimination were highlighted as being critically important.
- The pandemic deferred some progress of GCM implementation, but overall there have been good efforts by the Network, Member States and stakeholders. However, many regressive trends in migration policies are a cause for concern and highlight the need to reinforce efforts in ensuring that human rights are at the center.

SESSION III: MIGRATION MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND CONSULTATIVE FORUM

- The Migration MPTF is a unique vehicle that brings the GCM to life and supports UN system-wide coherence, in partnership with governments and stakeholders. This was reaffirmed at the IMRF and its Progress Declaration
- Twelve joint programmes are being implemented, covering a broad swathe of GCM objectives. The Fund has received 119 concept notes from over 80 countries; 36 proposals have been positively assessed by the Steering Committee and constitute the Migration MPTF pipeline.
- The Fund has a strong added value when it comes to fostering cooperation amongst countries, recognizing that migration is a multi-country phenomenon, which impacts places of origin, transit, destination and return. One-third of the programmes currently funded by the MMPTF are multi-country programmes.
- The Migration MPTF will focus on the following areas: (i) initiatives addressing climate change challenges; (ii) improving migrants' access to essential health care services; (iii) contributing to preventing loss of life in transit; (iv) reinforcing attention on the child-sensitivity and whole-of-society guiding principles of the GCM.

- The Migration MPTF has also begun an external evaluation to identify its achievements and lessons learned.
- Current contributors to the Migration MPTF are Germany, the UK, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, France, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Ireland, the Philippines, Luxembourg, Thailand, Cyprus, Turkey and Bangladesh.
- While the Fund has a total capitalization target of USD 70 million, approximately USD35 million has been received. Donors, current and potential, were called upon to develop imaginative ways to pool resources and generate matching pledges.
- Announcements of contributions were made by Mexico and the United States, taking the Fund's income to USDD 40 million. Germany offered to pilot a new matching pledge scheme.

SESSION IV: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

- Effective knowledge management and strategic communication are crucial elements to speak effectively about the GCM and migration. Equally important is recognizing who target audiences are, and how best to engage them.
- Using facts and figures have not been enough to create public confidence, conviction and support on migration. Communications also needs to include migrants' voices, experiences and expertise. People's testimonies are transfers of knowledge and form a narrative based in reality of the migration experience, not just one that victimizes migrants. Migrants' stories create links with people, forging a common understanding.
- The work of the Migration Network Hub was commended, including as being a space for communication amongst different actors working on migration. The Network should continue this work of bringing together a community of practice.
- The abundance of information and knowledge - including several knowledge management hubs in different entities or platforms - can lead to confusion and misinformation.
- It is important for the UN to speak with one voice.

SESSION V: THE WAY FORWARD

Opening Remarks by Mr. António Vitorino, the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration:
<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Coordinator%26%23039%3Bs%20opening%20remarks%2019%20Oct%20-%20as%20delivered.pdf>

- The Network was seen to have an important role in the global ecosystem addressing a number of complex realities, such as future pandemics, climate, growing food insecurity, armed conflict, lack of sustainable development; and on addressing negative narratives on migration. The Network was also thanked for providing a convening space for discussion amongst governments and stakeholders.
- Many Member States were pleased to see the main actions from the Progress Declaration incorporated into the Network's new workplan for future action, as well as appreciation for its balanced approach on GCM topics, mirroring the 360-degeree approach. The indicators work was cited often, with a plea to remain within a "limited set" to propose through a consultation process to be organized by the Network. The work on climate change was also

cited, with a plea to be as ambitious as possible, noting that the Network can help fill the gap in the international architecture.

- Several Member States cited the need to expand partnerships on GCM implementation, for example, as Champions and as donors to the Migration MPTF, as well as with stakeholders. Several others emphasized incorporating the whole-of-government and whole-of-society guiding principles into GCM implementation. Member States were encouraged to reach out more to civil society for knowledge on GCM implementation.
- While GCM implementation is first and foremost a Member States undertaking, the Network was thanked for creating a conducive environment for implementation: through the voluntary reporting, pledging initiative, and support towards a consensus Progress Declaration. The importance of following up on [pledges](#) towards GCM implementation was highlighted.
- Increasing inputs to Hub, ensuring high quality data, knowledge management and leveraging practices were emphasized.
- It was also noted that it would be important to recognize that moving forward, more attention needs to be focused at the regional and country levels. At country level, how stakeholders can be better included in participatory processes was raised; at the regional level, the informal rapporteur roles by Canada and Colombia on the gender-responsive and child-sensitive guiding principles respectively was welcomed.
- On the global level, how the Champions can continue their work, perhaps clustering on specific issues was raised.
- Increasing the diversity of actors on GCM implementation and communications was stressed, including migrants, youth and diaspora organizations. Migrants should be seen as not just workers or victims, but as people who can affect change.
- There was a call for a firm commitment to expand regular pathways to create more multilateral credibility.
- The next round of regional reviews in 2024 should be an opportunity to increase intra-regional cooperation, with a focus on priority aspects of the Progress Declaration and how they are translated in regions.