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United Nations
Network on Migration
Working Better Together



Dialogue with Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on the GCM Regional Review in the Arab Region

Thursday, 28th January, 2021
11:00am to 1:00pm Cairo/Beirut time

Concept Note

I. Background

The global dialogue on migration has gained increased momentum in the past decades that has led to the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016 by the UN General Assembly. In this Declaration, Member States committed to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations that culminated in the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and formally endorsed by the UN General Assembly in December 2018. The GCM, with its 23 objectives and their associated actionable commitments and suggested actions, provides a 360-degree approach to migration governance and offers a road map to help achieve safe, orderly and regular migration. Its guiding principles place the human rights and well-being of people at its core and call for a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to migration governance that is gender sensitive and child responsive.

To ensure its effective implementation, Member States decided that the GCM includes a call for voluntary follow-up and review. At the global level, the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which will be held every four years beginning in 2022, will serve as the primary intergovernmental platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all the objectives of the GCM. The implementation of the GCM will be reviewed at the regional level to monitor the progress on its implementation, beginning in 2020, and every four years thereafter, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders so that its outcome will inform the IMRF. To ensure a thorough and inclusive regional review, Member States are encouraged to prepare a voluntary GCM review to be presented during the regional review.

To assist in the preparation and organization of regional reviews, Member States requested support from IOM as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration which was established by the UN Secretary-General to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support for implementation, as well as follow-up and review of the GCM, in response to the needs of Member States. They recognize the important role of State-led processes and platforms at the global and regional levels in advancing the international dialogue on migration, and invite the Global Forum on Migration and Development, regional consultative processes and other global, regional and subregional forums to provide platforms to exchange experiences on the implementation of the Global Compact, share good practices on policies and cooperation, promote innovative approaches, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships around specific

policy issues in the paragraph 47 of the GCM. Member States also invited - as mentioned in the paragraph 50 of the GCM - relevant sub-regional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations regional economic commissions or regional consultative processes - to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions. For this purpose, an indicative outline was developed by the UN Network on Migration (Annex I).

IOM, ESCWA and the League of Arab States, in collaboration with the members of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab region, and with the support of the Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, are coordinating the GCM regional review process in the Arab region in close consultation with Member States. The regional review process is composed of several components to ensure the widest and most effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

To this end, the partners organized two online capacity building workshops to support Member States to develop their voluntary GCM review reports in June and August of 2020. Given that the GCM follow-up and review is a State-led process, IOM, ESCWA, and the League of Arab States organized a Consultation with Member States on the modalities of the Regional Review Conference of the GCM in the Arab Region in October 2020. During the consultation, Member States discussed their preference regarding the timing and format of the regional review forum in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure a whole-of-society approach to the regional reviews, ESCWA, IOM, and the United Nations Network on Migration also organized two multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions in October and November of 2020, bringing together representatives of civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector and employers' organizations, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and academia among others. The dialogues served to raise awareness on the GCM and the regional review process and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss means to ensure their optimal engagement in the review process. Additional dialogue sessions will be organized with specific stakeholder groups as part of the review process which will culminate in the organization of the Regional Review Conference in the first quarter of 2021.

II. Dialogue with Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on the GCM Regional Review in the Arab Region

As reflected in the above new developments decided both by Member States and the UN Secretary-General, the need to include the Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms (ISCMs) on Migration, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, is widely acknowledged. All relevant ISCMs are invited to actively contribute to regional dialogues and preparation processes for the regional review conference while building constructive, cooperative and forward-looking engagements with the participants.

The members of the United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab region note the particularly crucial role that ISCMs play in enhancing the understanding of migration across the region, providing a convergence in policy approaches to migration governance and helping in the enactment of well-managed migration policies.

Recognizing the mutual value added by sharing experiences, and in line with the GCM guiding principles that call for a whole-of-government and whole-of society approach in the GCM, IOM and UN

ESCWA in cooperation with the members of the Regional UN Network on Migration in the Arab Region, will organize a dialogue with Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on the GCM Regional Review in the Arab Region.

a. Objective

The dialogue aims to:

1. Provide ISCMs with an overview of the recent developments on migration governance especially at the regional level and highlighting the new structures in place for coordination on migration;
2. Provide a brief overview of the regional review process and the timeline towards the 2021 Regional Review Conference;
3. Exchange experiences and stocktaking on ISCMs' activities in support of the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM;
4. Discuss with the ISCMs means to optimize their engagement with and contribution to the regional review.

Following the recent outbreak of the COVID-19, and the current and evolving situation, the dialogue will be organized virtually. Details for accessing the online consultation will be shared with the participants accordingly. Simultaneous translation will be provided in Arabic and English.

b. Outcome

The outcome of the dialogue with Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms is twofold. First, to ensure an exchange of information between various ISCMs on the achievements and challenges regarding the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM in the Arab region.

The second outcome of this consultation is some recommendations on the means to ensure their optimal engagement in the regional review process.

c. Date and Venue

The consultation will be organized on Thursday, 28 January 2021 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm Cairo/Beirut Time.

d. Agenda

(Cairo/Beirut time)

10:45-11:00	Registration
11:00-11:05	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- IOM- ESCWA
11:05-11:30	Scene Setting This session serves to set the scene for the discussion by presenting a brief overview of the GCM Follow-up and Review in the Arab region. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GCM principles and objectives (5 min)- ESCWA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GCM follow up and review process at the regional level (5 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IOM • Role of the ISCMs in the GCM implementation (5 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat of the UN Network
11:30-12:15	<p>Open Discussion: Promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in the GCM regional review in the Arab region: This session will offer a platform for open discussion among participants representing the ISCMs relevant to the region. The session will allow for exchanging experiences and collective reflection on the GCM implementation, Follow-up and Review in the Arab region.</p> <p>Guiding question to frame the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Update on the status of implementation of regional plans and strategies on migration, per relevant GCM objective;</i> - <i>How the cross-cutting and interdependent GCM guiding principles, including the whole-of-society and whole-of-government principles, have been integrated by the respective ISCMs into existing plans and policies (and whether that helped address trade-offs and accelerate implementation);</i> - <i>What the main gaps and challenges are to existing regional approaches, strategies and implementation plans;</i> - <i>Examples of promising practices and lessons learned that may be relevant for other regions (and could be presented at the IMRF);</i> <i>Areas (GCM objectives and/or guiding principles) where the region would need support in terms of finance, capacity-building, policy advice, data gathering and analysis, technology, partnerships, etc</i> <p><i>Moderator: International Partnerships Division, IOM</i></p>
12:15-12:45	<p>Open discussion: Means to ensure optimal engagement of the ISCMs in the regional review. This session serves to brainstorm on means and modalities to ensure the meaningful engagement and participation of ISCMs, in the GCM regional follow-up and review process. The discussion will particularly focus on their engagement in the regional conference.</p> <p>Guiding question to frame the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the most suitable means to ensure the optimal engagement of the ISCMs in the regional review conference? - What inputs are envisioned to the regional review conference? <p><i>Moderator: Sara Salman, Regional Advisor on Population Affairs, UN ESCWA</i></p>
12:45-13:00	<p>Closing remarks and the way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESCWA - IOM

d. Invited Participants

- **5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean**
- **Abu Dhabi Dialogue**
- **African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU HoAI)**
- **Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)**
- **Bali Process**
- **European Union - Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process)**
- **Global Forum on Migration & Development**
- **Migration Dialogue for COMESA Region**
- **Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM)**
- **Pan-African Forum on Migration**
- **Rabat Process**

Annex I. Indicative outline for relevant sub-regional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations and stakeholders active at the regional level reviewing the status of implementation of the GCM at the regional level.

In preparing for the review, relevant sub-regional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations and stakeholders active at the regional level could submit inputs addressing the following issues:

- (a) Update on the status of implementation of regional plans and strategies on migration, per relevant GCM objective if possible, based on statistical data, where available.
- (b) How regional bodies and processes have integrated the cross-cutting and interdependent GCM guiding principles, including the whole-of-society and whole-of-government principles, into existing plans and policies (and whether that helped address trade-offs and accelerate implementation).
- (c) What the main gaps and challenges are to existing regional approaches, strategies and implementation plans.
- (d) List some examples of promising practices and lessons learned that may be relevant for other regions (and could be presented at the IMRF).
- (e) Outline areas (GCM objectives and/or guiding principles) where the region would need support in terms of finance, capacity-building, policy advice, data gathering and analysis, technology, partnerships, etc.