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Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration:
Implementation and Policy Implications for the Arab Region
Cairo, 3-5 December 2019

INFORMATION NOTE

I. CONTEXT

The formal adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), in December 2018, constituted a historic and remarkable achievement as the first comprehensive agreement on migration governance. The GCM with its 23 objectives and their associated commitments and suggested actions provide a 360-degree approach to help achieve safe, orderly and regular migration.

The GCM recognizes that governing international migration is a shared responsibility of all countries and stresses the importance of partnerships at various levels and with all relevant stakeholders. The GCM also provides states with the flexibility to pursue implementation based on their own migration realities, capacities, and priorities.

Arab States participated actively during the consultation and negotiation phases leading up to the adoption of the GCM. The key messages that emanated from the [Regional Consultation on International Migration in the Arab Region](#) that took place in September 2017 were presented at the stocktaking meeting in Mexico in December 2017 and served to inform the subsequent negotiation phase leading up to the adoption of the GCM.

Moreover, the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) convened an extraordinary meeting in July 2017 during the consultations and negotiations. Two outcome documents were adopted during the meeting, as the ARCP's contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the GCM, which were submitted to the UN. As such, the GCM reflects many key issues and priorities of migration governance in the region.

The GCM comes at a critical time for the Arab region as it witnesses unprecedented levels of migration. The Arab region hosts 38 million migrants (close to 15% of the global migrant population), while 29 million migrants originate from the region. In light of its scale and complex patterns and trends, migration presents both opportunities and challenges with regards to development. Operationalizing the objectives and commitments of the GCM will enable Arab countries to address those challenges and capitalize on the benefits of migration to accelerate development.

II. REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION: IMPLEMENTATION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ARAB REGION

Building on efforts to increase awareness on the GCM, enhance regional coordination towards its implementation, and improve migration governance in the region, the League of Arab States (LAS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), will organize the “*Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Implementation and Policy Implications for the Arab Region*”. The Conference, organized in collaboration with members of the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region, will be held in Cairo, on 3-4 December 2019.¹

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Conference aims to provide a platform for member States to identify national and regional priorities, share best practices and key achievements to date in implementing the GCM, and explore priority actions for the future. The Conference also aims to enhance the participants’ awareness on means and tools to operationalize the GCM, as well as follow-up and review mechanisms and processes at the regional and global levels, namely the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) that will take place in 2022, and the International Migration Regional Review Forum, preceding the IMRF, that will take place in 2020, as per the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums (A/RES/73/326).²

¹ The Working Group (WG) on International Migration in the Arab Region was established in 2013 to coordinate the work programmes on international migration of regional actors in the Arab region and to promote joint research on migration. The WG includes 19 partner organizations that aim to promote coordination mechanisms, the exchange of information on migration and the development of programmes, projects and activities related to international migration and development in the Arab region.

² Paragraph 10 of the Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums “Invites relevant sub-regional, regional, and cross regional processes, platforms, and organizations, including the United Nations Regional Commissions, and the Regional Consultative Processes on migration, to review the implementation of the Global Compact, within their respective regions, and to contribute to the work of the forums, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.”

B. PROGRAM OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The program of the Regional Conference covers the following themes:

- The dimensions of the GCM and its policy implications for the Arab States;
- Regional and national cooperation mechanisms to promote good migration governance, and means to strengthen dialogue and partnerships between governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and international and regional organizations;
- National experiences, challenges and priorities in migration governance;
- Integrating migration into development plans and achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the GCM;
- Priority areas to make migration work for all in the Arab region and entry points for required public policies;
- The global process leading to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) that will be held in 2022, and the International Migration Regional Review Forum in the Arab Region, preceding the IMRF, that will be held in 2020, as well as the role of governments, non-government stakeholders, the UN Network on Migration, and other partners engaging in and supporting the process.

C. OUTCOME

The Regional Conference provides a pertinent opportunity to engage member States in a dialogue on the GCM and means for its implementation and follow up. The expected results of the Regional Conference are:

- Enhanced awareness of participants of the GCM's principles and objectives;
- Understanding of policy implications of the GCM;
- Renewed commitment to the GCM and good migration governance;
- Preparedness for implementation of the GCM and active participation in regional processes leading up to the International Migration Review Forum that will be held in 2022.

III. CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

In response to the growing demand by Arab States for capacity-building on migration policies, and with a view to supporting Member States and promoting regional cooperation for the implementation of the GCM, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in cooperation with the Working on International Migration in the Arab Region, will organize a “*Capacity Building Workshop on Migration Governance*” on 5 December 2019 in Cairo.

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The capacity building workshop builds on the outcome of the discussions during the “*Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Implementation and Policy Implications for the Arab Region*”, held in Cairo, 3-4 December 2019, and it aims to enhance the participants' awareness of the GCM's policy implications in the Arab States, and ways to engage in the implementation and review processes.

B. PROGRAM OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The workshop focuses on building the participants' capacity to review policies and strategies from a GCM perspective, and to identify areas of reform required to ensure that the national system is aligned with the GCM's requirements and approaches. Participants' awareness will also be raised on the UN Network on Migration and its role in supporting countries.

Participants will be introduced to the role of the UN and civil society organizations working in the field of migration, and their support to Member States in implementing the GCM. Through practical exercises, participants will identify practical steps to accelerate the GCM implementation, including funding mechanisms, data, and follow-up and review processes.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL AND LOGISTICAL DETAILS

A. DATE AND VENUE

The regional conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Cairo, on 3 and 4 December 2019. The capacity building workshop will take place at the same venue on 5 December 2019.

B. WORKING LANGUAGES

Arabic, English, and French are the working languages of the regional conference and the capacity building workshop. Simultaneous interpretation for the three languages will be provided.

C. DOCUMENTATION

- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants [A/RES/71/1](#)
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration [A/RES/73/195](#)
- Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums [A/RES/73/326](#)

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [A/RES/70/1](#)
- Regional Consultation on International Migration in the Arab Region, 2017, [outcome document](#)

D. PARTICIPANTS AND REGISTRATION

The regional conference will bring together key stakeholders including senior Arab government representatives, representatives of regional consultative processes, in addition to civil society organizations, international organizations, experts, and academics.

Participants of the capacity building workshop will include policy makers and relevant administrative staff from various Arab countries, as well as experts and representatives of regional and international organizations.

E. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

All participants are expected to inquire about their visa requirements to Egypt and secure visas ahead of their anticipated travel date. Travel details will be communicated to participants upon confirmation of attendance.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

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