



Cross-regional collaboration between Africa and Arab regions to accelerate the GCM implementation

Side-Event at the International Migration Review Forum (Virtual)

Thursday, 19 May 2022

8:45am to 9:45am New York Time/2:45pm to 3:45pm Cairo/Geneva Time

Background

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is set out in General Assembly resolution 73/195, adopted on 19 December 2018, and was formulated on the basis of a shared 360-degree vision and nine cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles. Considering that most international migration takes place within regions, relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations were invited to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, beginning in 2020, alternating with discussions at the global level at a four-year interval, in order to effectively inform each edition of the International Migration Review Forum, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders (GCM paragraph 50). The Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, was requested to assist, upon request by Member States, in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the GCM in the General Assembly resolution 73/326 on Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums (paragraph 9).

Implementation of the GCM's 23 objectives was reviewed for the first time in 2020 and 2021 in preparation for the International Migration Review Forum, to be convened in May 2022.

In the Arab region, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (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, coordinated the Regional Review Conference of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region, held online on 24 and 25 February 2021.

In the Africa region, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), IOM which acts as the Secretariat for the United Nations Network on Migration, and the African Union Commission jointly organized the African regional review, which was hosted by the Government of Morocco from 26 August to 1 September 2021.

The Regional Reviews allowed Governments to make an inaugural preliminary assessment of progress in implementing the GCM and to identify challenges and opportunities. They also provided an opportunity to highlight gaps, discuss regional priorities, trends and approaches,



and take stock to implement the Global Compact for Migration. The Conference provided a platform for all migration stakeholders to interact, to share lessons learned and good practices, and to assess the outcomes of the various regional reviews. It facilitated the formulation of key outcomes and recommendations aimed at ensuring the regional contribution to the first International Migration Review Forum to be held in 2022.

Description of the Side-event

Since the Regional Reviews were divided in the five United Nations regions and did not comprise of cross-regional components on potential collaboration across regions to accelerate the GCM implementation, The side event will address the common priorities in Africa and Arab regions and discuss cross-regional collaboration to support Member States and stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of GCM. The event will focus, in particular GCM objective 16, on empowering migrants to realize full inclusion and social cohesion as one of the key common priority-GCM objectives across the two regions.

The objective of this side event is to propose concrete ideas to enhance cross-regional collaboration between the two regions. Expected outcomes of the event will be commitment from each participating agency on how to strengthen cross-regional collaboration in their respective areas of work and what support can be offered to Member States and stakeholders to accelerate the GCM implementation ahead of the next regional review.

Format

The event be fully virtual and conducted through the Zoom Platform. The Connection Link will be sent to the participants registered online. Interpretation will be provided in English, Arabic and French.

[Register here.](#)

Suggested agenda

Thursday, 19 May 2022 8:45am to 9:45am New York Time/2:45pm to 3:45pm Cairo/Geneva Time Virtual meeting through ZOOM	
8:45am	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Alexander Muteshi, Director General, Directorate of Immigration Services, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government of Kenya
8:50am	Keynote Speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Ms. Jean Muonaowauza Sendeza, M.P., Minister of Homeland Security of the Republic of Malawi H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, the Royal Kingdom of Morocco
9:10am	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Wen Li, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships, IOM



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN ECA Deputy Executive Secretary (TBC) • Dr. Mehrinaz El Awady, Director of the Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA • Mr. Mohammed Mukheir, Regional Director for Africa, The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) • Professor Ibrahim Awad, Director, Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, at the American University in Cairo <p>Moderator: Ms. Laila Baker, UN Regional Director for Arab States (TBC)</p>
9:40am	Closing Remarks