



UN Network Dialogue with Stakeholders in the Arab region on the International Migration Review Forum

10 February 2022

ESCWA closing remarks

Sara Salman

Distinguished colleagues, panelists, moderators and guests,

Thank you all for participating in our meeting today and it was wonderful to see and hear all of you virtually again.

Today's meeting comes at a very busy time for all of us engaged in the field of migration, as the whole world gears up for the first International Migration Review Forum.

The purpose of Today's meeting was to bring the relevant stakeholder in the region together as a humble effort to offer support and encouragement to ensure widest participation in the IMRF and to make sure that all the voices from the region are heard loud and clear during the global debate.

We heard you today reflect on several issues of extreme importance for ensuring safe orderly and regular migration from and to our region, which we hope you will carry them through to the IMRF.

- 1) The importance of a continued whole of society whole of government approach to migration government beyond the review
- 2) The need to learn from the lessons we learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic to improve migrants rights, including their right to access health and education. Beyond access, there is also a need to develop services that are responsive and sensitive to migrants needs.
- 3) The need to intensify efforts to provide access to skill development and upskilling for migrants, especially to young migrants.
- 4) The need to enhance efforts to better protect migrants in vulnerable situations including children, women, victims of trafficking among others.
- 5) The need for a revamping of the system to protect migrant workers beyond Kafala reform and include migrants and migration in the negotiation of new social contracts.
- 6) The importance of ensuring that national level efforts on migration governance trickle down and reflect local level realities of migrants and migration.
- 7) The need to Raise migrants' voices and advocacies through empowering the role of civil organization and migrants networks in the Arab region to better protect and empower migrants.
- 8) The need to combat xenophobia and discrimination against migrants to and from the Arab region.
- 9) The importance of encouraging more research on migration in the region, and the need to galvanize the role of academics and academic institutions.
- 10) The need to build a better enabling environment through supporting the data production to ensure evidence-based policies, allocating the needed resources to implement the necessary initiative for achieving the GCM objectives, and the need to strengthen the partnerships at all local, national, regional and global levels.



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We thank you for these insights and we will consider how we can best support you moving forward so that together we can accelerate the achievement of the GCM objectives. Our colleague Monami gave a great overview of the various ways that migration networks can support you and we encourage you to reach out, and we will be happy to support within our means.

Thank you all once again, and I would especially like to thank our colleagues at IOM for all their hard work, for our remarkable partnership, and for making this event a success.