



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



## Capacity Building Workshop on the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region

### Concept Note

25 June, 10 am-1 pm

### I. BACKGROUND

International migration has reached unprecedented levels in recent years, increasing the salience of migration governance on the international agenda. In December 2018, as a result of several years of negotiation, countries adopted the very first comprehensive agreement on migration governance under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (resolution 73/195), the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM).

While non-legally binding, the GCM establishes a universal framework for good migration governance, which protects the rights of migrants and fosters their contribution to sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels. Its ten guiding principles place people at the core of the GCM, highlighting the need for a gender-responsive and child-sensitive approach, and emphasizing the importance of coordination and of engaging all relevant actors through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Through a comprehensive set of 23 objectives and their associated actions, the GCM provides a holistic roadmap to making migration work for all.

The GCM comes at a critical moment for the Arab region, which has been witnessing increasing volumes of people on the move in recent years. The region hosted more than 40 million international migrants and refugees in 2019, constituting about 15 per cent of all migrants and refugees worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Intra-regional migration is particularly prevalent, with almost half of the migrants from Arab countries remaining in the region.

Arab countries have actively engaged in the process leading up to the adoption of the GCM given the pertinence of these topics for the region. Since the adoption of the GCM, Member States have also participated in several regional dialogues on implementing the GCM, including the [Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Migration: Implementation and Policy Implications for the Arab Region](#) and the [Capacity Building Workshop on Migration Governance](#) held in Cairo in December 2019.

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, [International Migrant Stock 2019](#).

## **II. FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE GCM**

To ensure alignment with the guiding principles of the GCM, promote its implementation, and to provide a platform for exchange between countries at the global and regional level, the GCM calls for systematic follow-up and periodical voluntary reviews at the global, regional, and national levels.<sup>2</sup> Countries are encouraged to conduct periodical voluntary GCM reviews and submit them to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which will be held in four-year intervals beginning in 2022. The IMRF will serve as the primary intergovernmental platform to review progress towards a 360-degree implementation of the GCM, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. At the regional level, regional reviews will be conducted in four-year intervals, alternating with the global review. The first regional-level review of GCM implementation will take place in 2020.

The Regional Review of the GCM Implementation in the Arab Region (the Regional Review) will be coordinated by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the League of Arab States (LAS), in collaboration with UN agencies, funds and programs, who are members of the Issue Based Coalition on Migration in the Arab Region, and with the support of the United Nations Network on Migration (the Network).<sup>3</sup>

The GCM Regional Review Forum is planned to take place on 1-2 December 2020 in Beirut. In addition to representatives of Member States, the GCM Regional Review Forum will bring together representatives of intergovernmental organizations, regional consultative processes, UN agencies, civil society organizations, businesses, and experts among other stakeholders.

Member States are encouraged to conduct national stocktaking and prepare voluntary GCM reviews assessing national progress towards the implementation of the GCM and present the results at the GCM Regional Review Forum. To support Member States with the reviews, the UN Network on Migration has developed a guiding template that includes the suggested structure and elements of the review.

The findings of the voluntary GCM reviews will be synthesized in a regional report that highlights regional trends, common challenges and opportunities, gaps and promising practices, as well as emerging issues. The regional report will be presented at the Regional Review and will subsequently inform the first global-level review in 2022.

## **III. CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP**

Building on its previous efforts to increase the capacity of Member States, ESCWA, IOM and LAS in collaboration with UN agencies funds and programmes, who are the members of the Issue Based Coalition on Migration in the Arab Region, will organize a series of online capacity building workshop to support Member States in developing their voluntary GCM reviews.

---

<sup>2</sup> More detail on the global and regional reviews was provide by General Assembly resolution 73/326 on the [Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums](#).

<sup>3</sup> Formerly known as the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region.

### **a. Date and Venue**

1<sup>st</sup> round: 1 (possibly 2) slot(s): the first on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 between 1pm and 3pm Cairo time; the second workshop to be organized in early July 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> round: 1 (possibly 2) slot(s) in end-July and early-August 2020

### **b. Objective**

The series of Capacity Building Workshops aim to raise the awareness and build the capacities of Arab States' designated focal points on migration on the GCM principles and objectives, and the 360-degree approach to its implementation, follow-up and review. The Workshops will provide an opportunity for Member State representatives to discuss the progress in developing their voluntary GCM reviews, exchange experiences and best practices in preparing them, and ensure that they are aligned with the spirit and text of the GCM.

### **c. Methodology and proposed agenda**

In order to facilitate interactive discussions through an online format and the exchange of positive practices that countries have adopted in preparing their voluntary reviews, participants could be divided into two slots per each round.

While workshops will be held online, participants may be invited to attend them from IOM country offices, where available, and if access is possible and permitted. IOM staff will seek to provide participants with the necessary technical and substantive support throughout the workshops. Participants from countries where this option is not available, or who will not be able to attend the workshops from IOM country offices, will be supported online by ESCWA and the IOM Regional Office on an individual basis.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> round of Capacity Building Workshop: 25 June 2020, (10am – 1 pm Cairo Time)**

Invitations to Member States to start preparing their voluntary GCM reviews have been sent. A template to guide the voluntary GCM reviews was prepared, in line with that prepared by the UN Network on Migration, and sent to Member States and their migration focal points (see Annex 1: Guiding Template).

The online workshop will be held on 25 June 2020 between 10 am and 1 pm. It will begin with a brief scene-setting presentation that provides a recap of the GCM principles and objectives and presents the regional review process in the Arab region. The subsequent session will focus on the different components of the proposed template to prepare voluntary reviews. Finally, Member States will have an opportunity to discuss initial ideas and questions related to the preparation of the voluntary GCM reviews.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> round (mid July 2020):**

The second round of the Capacity Building Workshop will offer hands-on training allowing participants to self-assess their progress on developing their voluntary GCM reviews, the alignment of the reviews with the 360-degree approach to implementation of the GCM, and identify areas that require further development.

#### **d. Participants**

The Capacity Building Workshops on the Regional Review will be attended by Arab States' designated focal points on migration. IOM country teams, members of the National UN Networks on Migration, and members of the IBC on migration in the Arab Region will be available as resource persons to provide technical expertise to participants as needed.

#### **IV. DOCUMENTATION**

- 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](#)
- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants [A/RES/71/1](#)
- Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Migration: Implementation and Policy Implications for the Arab Region 2019, [Report](#)
- Capacity Building Workshop on Migration Governance 2019, [Report](#)
- [Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region, 2019](#)