

**IOM Information Note**  
**on Regional Consultations in Support of the**  
**Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM)<sup>1</sup>**

**Last update: 27 March 2017**

**Background**

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>2</sup> expresses the political will of world leaders to protect the rights of refugees and migrants, to save lives and share responsibility for large movements on a global scale. The New York Declaration contains three substantive sections with commitments that apply to both refugees and migrants, commitments specific to refugees and commitments specific to migrants. It includes Annex I, the “Comprehensive refugee response framework”, and Annex II, entitled “Towards a Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM)”.

The GCM is a Member-state-led effort to set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among UN Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions and elaborate a comprehensive international cooperation framework on migrants and human mobility, grounded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>3</sup>.

Following the Declaration, the GCM Modalities Resolution<sup>4</sup> guides the preparatory process leading to the GCM. According to the GCM Modalities Resolution, the process leading to the adoption of the GCM comprises three phases: (I) Consultations (April – November 2017); (II) Stocktaking (November 2017 – January 2018) and (III) Inter-governmental negotiations (February – July 2018).

The GCM Consultations Phase foresees a series of informal thematic sessions, as well as regional and national consultations.

The informal thematic sessions will be held at the global level on six major themes as follows:

- (i) Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance.
- (ii) Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labor mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications, and other relevant measures.
- (iii) International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration.

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared by IOM IPD.

<sup>2</sup> UN GA Resolution of 3 October 2016 A/71/1 “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”, Annex II, § 14. [[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/A\\_RES\\_71\\_1\\_E.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/A_RES_71_1_E.pdf)].

<sup>3</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution of 21 October 2015 A/RES/70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” [[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)]

<sup>4</sup> UN GA A/71/L.58 “Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration” of 30 January 2017 [[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/15/documents/A\\_71\\_L.58\\_E.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/15/documents/A_71_L.58_E.pdf)]

- (iv) Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits.
- (v) Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution.
- (vi) Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficked victims.

The Modalities Resolution further specifies that GCM Regional consultations should:

- ⇒ be convened by United Nations Regional Commissions (UN REC) in collaboration with other relevant entities of the UN System, particularly IOM;
- ⇒ bring together UN Member States and other relevant stakeholders;
- ⇒ examine regional and sub-regional aspects of international migration;
- ⇒ Provide inputs to the GCM preparatory process.<sup>5</sup>

The **goals** of the Regional Consultations are:

- ⇒ Identify regional and sub-regional challenges associated with migration and human mobility;
- ⇒ Discuss and gather regional good practices and recommendations for concrete solutions taking into account their inter-linkages with other policy domains.

The finalized regional-level input from the Regional Consultations is expected to feed into the GCM preparation.

## Scope and Contents

Discussions could address (some of) the 24 GCM elements<sup>6</sup> contained in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: these elements can be grouped around the six themes suggested in GCM Modalities Resolution<sup>7</sup>.

Each Region should prioritise those issues of greater relevance.

Please note that regional input will be sought also for the global-level informal thematic consultations, which are to focus on the six themes subsuming all the elements.

You may like to consider suggesting **preliminary technical** (sub-regional or regional) **discussions** prior to the Regional consultations to help shape a common understanding and compile concrete recommendations and best practices from the Region, to be submitted to the Regional plenary consultations.

The technical-level discussions could be organized through the Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on migration (ISCM)<sup>8</sup> in the given region: the ISCM meetings could help

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<sup>5</sup> GCM Modalities Resolution, § 22.

<sup>6</sup> As outlined in New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, Annex II, § 8.

<sup>7</sup> GCM Modalities Resolution, § 15.

<sup>8</sup> Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on migration (ISCM) are state-led, ongoing information-sharing and policy dialogues on the regional, inter-regional or global level for those States with an interest in promoting cooperation in the field of migration. ISCMs comprise of global processes on migration (e.g. GFMD, IDM, UN

formulate concrete recommendations and other inputs to feed into the GCM Regional Consultations.<sup>9</sup>

Preparatory work can also be done through surveys, studies and reports.

### **Potential Participants**

A plethora of possible interlocutors are listed in the GCM Modalities Resolution.<sup>10</sup>

N.B. Since the GCM is a Member-State-led process, it is important getting the Member States' consent to inviting other participants.

The Regional Consultations should involve:

- ⇒ UN Member States in the given Region.

The following major state-led regional actors can be considered as well:

- ⇒ Relevant intergovernmental organizations,
- ⇒ Relevant regional political organizations,
- ⇒ Relevant regional economic organizations,
- ⇒ ISCMs in the region,
- ⇒ Inter-parliamentary institutions,
- ⇒ National human rights institutions.

Other entities (“stakeholders”) can also be involved subject to the MSs consent, and where appropriate:

- ⇒ Academic and research institutions,
- ⇒ Major migration NGOs,
- ⇒ Local governments,
- ⇒ Diaspora organizations,
- ⇒ The Private Sector,
- ⇒ Migrant associations,
- ⇒ Employer associations,
- ⇒ Trade unions
- ⇒ Migrants themselves.

Please note that the same entities may also be part of other GCM fora. E. g. the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly is considering organizing “multi-stakeholder” consultations (we are still enquiring on modalities for these).

In addition, the IOM Civil Society Liaison on the GCM (IOM Consultant) is expected to organize in June – November 2017 a series of Regional CSO consultations, the recommendations of which are expected also to feed into the GCM.

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HLD), Inter-Regional Forums on migration (IRF, bridging two or more regions) and Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCP, covering one, usually geographical, region).

<sup>9</sup> GCM Modalities resolution, § 22(b).

<sup>10</sup> GCM Modalities Resolution, §§ 6, 7, 8, 9 and 30.

## **Suggested Level of Participation to Regional Consultations**

High political (minister or senior officials) level is desirable since the adopted outcome document will feed into the GCM. Probably the level may affect the number of preparatory discussions.

## **Timing**

In order to allow sufficient time for negotiation / finalization of the Regional Consultations “outcome” document, the Regional Consultations should be arranged as soon as possible and no later than September 2017 and ideally before the IOM-hosted 7th Global RCP Meeting on 10-11 October 2017 (as the latter aims to compile all Regional inputs to the GCM). Please note that UN RECs will be invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> Global RCP Meeting.

While the duration of GCM Regional Consultations is not specified in the GCM Modalities Resolution, it suggests that the informal GCM thematic consultations can last for 2 days.

## **“Outcome” document**

The “outcome” document would list all recommendations and good practices to feed into the GCM stocktaking starting November 2017. In case of a Declaration, a Report with Regional and sub-regional input and recommendations could be appended to it.

## **The UN REC Role in Regional consultations**

UN RECs operate under the United Nations Economic and Social Council.<sup>11</sup> They foster economic integration at the sub-regional and regional levels, promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals (including the SDGs), support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps among their member countries and sub-regions through multilateral dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking at the regional level.

UN RECs have been mandated by the GCM Modalities Resolution to lead the GCM Regional Consultations in collaboration with other relevant entities of the UN System, particularly IOM<sup>12</sup>.

UN RECs have already started planning Regional consultations in their respective regions.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The terms “UN Regional Commission (UN RC)” and “UN Regional Economic Commission (UN REC)” are still used interchangeably; however they are more and more referred to as UN RCs. In the Modalities Resolution the term “Regional Economic Commissions” is used.

<sup>12</sup> GCM Modalities resolution, § 12 and 22(a).

<sup>13</sup> For details consult the Annex – matrix of regional consultation activities and stakeholders per region.

## IOM's Role in Regional Consultations

IOM is mandated by the New York Declaration<sup>14</sup> to co-service with the UN Secretariat the GCM negotiations by extending the technical and policy expertise as required and it is specifically invited to collaborate with UN RCs in GCM Regional Consultations.<sup>15</sup>

## Involvement of ISCMs<sup>16</sup>

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants recommends organizing GCM Regional consultations through “existing consultative processes and mechanisms,”<sup>17</sup> including the ISCM and particularly the Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCPs).

ISCM meetings can facilitate GCM technical level discussions in preparation for higher-level consultations on GCM. Several ISCMs (such as ADD, ARCP, Bali Process, Budapest Process, GFMD, IDM, IGC, RCM, and SACM) have started already to consider the extent and modalities of their engagement in the GCM preparation<sup>18</sup>; others (such as the Pan-African Forum) have indicated an interest to focus on GCM in their forthcoming events.

The 7th Global RCP Meeting hosted by IOM on 10-11 October 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland, aims at collecting and reviewing ISCM concrete recommendations and other substantive inputs to the GCM based on a compilation of their respective experiences, good practices and recommendations as formulated at ISCM Meetings held since the 19 September 2016 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. In preparation for the Global RCP Meeting, IOM plans to collect ISCM inputs on such experiences and good practices from ISCM through a survey.

## Useful references include:

- Outcome documents from the Post-2015 Agenda Regional Consultations,<sup>19</sup>
- Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative Regional Consultations<sup>20</sup>, which provide an example of an inclusive regional consultation format,
- MENA Regional MICIC Consultations Report<sup>21</sup>, which ultimately fed into the MICIC Guidelines.<sup>22</sup>

*Annex. Matrix of Regional consultation activities and stakeholders per Region*

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<sup>14</sup> New York Declaration, Annex II, §12.

<sup>15</sup> GCM Modalities resolution, § 22(a).

<sup>16</sup> GCM Modalities Resolution, § 22(b). GFMD and IDM are mentioned there individually. RCPs are referred to in New York Declaration, § 54 and Annex ii, § 14. GFMD is referred to in New York Declaration § 55 and Annex II, § 13.

<sup>17</sup> New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, Annex II, § 14.

<sup>18</sup> References to the GCM and recommendations were made in ARCP Meeting, XXI RCM Declaration; SACM Declaration of Asuncion; Bali Process 11th Ad Hoc Group SOM.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.regionalcommissions.org/regional-commissions-and-post-2015>

<sup>20</sup> <https://micicinitiative.iom.int/consultations/regional-consultations>

<sup>21</sup> [https://micicinitiative.iom.int/sites/default/files/document/consultation\\_report\\_english\\_2.pdf](https://micicinitiative.iom.int/sites/default/files/document/consultation_report_english_2.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> “Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster”

<https://micicinitiative.iom.int/guidelines>

## Annex. Matrix of Regional consultation activities and stakeholders per Region

### IOM International Partnerships Division GCM Regional Consultations UN RECs and other Regional actors, including ISCMs

RC Mandate:

UN GA A/71/L.58 “Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration” of 30 January 2017, § 12 and 22(a)<sup>i</sup>

| Region | UN Regional Commission   | Relevant ISCMs <sup>ii iii</sup>   | Other Relevant Regional Bodies <sup>iv</sup>  | UN REC / Regional Mechanism and RC Cooperation with IOM   | Regional knowledge products by UN REC  | Regional consultation / GCM Event   | Date              | Place                         |                       |                          |
|--------|--|--|---|---|--|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Africa | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) based in Addis Ababa | <u>RCPs:</u><br>IGAD RCP<br>MIDCOM<br>MIDCAS<br>MDSA<br>MIDWA<br><u>IRFs:</u><br>Pan-African Forum<br>ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration<br>Khartoum Process<br>Rabat Process<br>Bali Process<br>MTM | African Union<br>Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)<br>East African Community (EAC)<br>Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)<br>Southern African Development Community (SADC) | <b>Migration Steering Committee (MSC)</b><br>(comprising UNECA, African Union Commission, <b>IOM</b> , ILO and other relevant stakeholders) | regional report due June 2017 incorporating sub-regional perspectives and addressing the following topics: | 1. Presentation of UNECA Report at an AU/UNECA expert retreat   | 1. June/July 2017 | 1. Johannesburg, South Africa |                       |                          |
|        |  |  |   |   | - Fostering regional mobility  | 2. Two-day regional conference (with Ministers, regional migration experts and civil society) to validate the regional report and help develop a draft common African position on migration |                   |                               | 2. September 2017     | 2. Addis Ababa. Ethiopia |
|        |  |  |   |   | - Demographic dividend and migration   | 3. Special meeting of the AU expert committee dealing with migration to   |                   |                               | 3. 19-20 October 2017 |                          |
|        |  |  |   |   | - Skills, employment and migration   |   |                   |                               |                       |                          |
|        |  |  |   |   | - Leveraging   |   |                   |                               |                       |                          |

| Region   | UN Regional Commission  | Relevant ISCMs <sup>ii iii</sup>  | Other Relevant Regional Bodies <sup>iv</sup>  | UN REC / Regional Mechanism and RC Cooperation with IOM | Regional knowledge products by UN REC  | Regional consultation / GCM Event   | Date                   | Place           |
|----------|---|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------|-----------------|
|          |   |   | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)<br>Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)  |   | human and financial resources of the diaspora for development<br><br>- New directions and trends in African migration<br><br>- Irregular migration<br><br>- Gender perspective of migration in the region  | adopt the common African position (which will then be presented at the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government in January 2018) |                        |                 |
| Americas | United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) based in Santiago de Chile | <u>RCPs</u> :<br>RCM<br>SACM<br>CMC<br><u>IRFs</u> :<br>FIBEMYD<br>EU-LAC<br>ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration<br>Bali Process | Organization of American States (OAS)<br>Association of Caribbean States (ACS)<br>Caribbean Community Secretariat (CariCom)<br>Central American Integration System (SICA)<br>Latin American and the | UNECLAC and <b>IOM</b>                                  | 1. Mexico and Central American sub-region – study on unaccompanied child migration to the U.S., smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, and remittances;<br><br>2. Caribbean sub-region study -- economic migrants, brain drain and climate change-related migration; | Two-day regional consultation to which experts from each sub-region will be invited   | Late August 2017 (TBC) | Santiago, Chile |

| Region                      | UN Regional Commission  | Relevant ISCMs <sup>ii iii</sup>   | Other Relevant Regional Bodies <sup>iv</sup>   | UN REC / Regional Mechanism and RC Cooperation with IOM  | Regional knowledge products by UN REC  | Regional consultation / GCM Event  | Date              | Place             |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|
|                             |   |  | Caribbean Economic System (SELA)<br>Latin American Integration Association (ALADI)<br>Southern Common Market (Mercosur)<br>Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)<br>North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)<br>Andean Community |  | 3. South American sub-region study – intra-regional migration, remittances and bilateral agreements on migration       |  |                   |                   |
| <b>Asia and the Pacific</b> | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) based in Bangkok | <u>RCPs:</u><br><u>Colombo Process</u><br><u>IRFs:</u><br><u>AFML</u><br><u>ADD</u><br><u>ASEM</u><br><u>Conference on Migration</u> | Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)<br>Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)   | Regional Coordination Mechanism<br><b>Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Societies</b> (comprising UNESCAP, | Background papers on:<br><br>- The need to address the drivers of migration, including through strengthened efforts in | Three-day regional consultation to adopt an outcome document and final report to be transmitted as the Asia-Pacific input into the intergovernmental negotiations of the | 6-8 November 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand |



| Region | UN Regional Commission | Relevant ISCMs <sup>ii iii</sup> | Other Relevant Regional Bodies <sup>iv</sup>  | UN REC / Regional Mechanism and RC Cooperation with IOM | Regional knowledge products by UN REC  | Regional consultation / GCM Event | Date | Place |
|--------|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|------|-------|
|        |                        | <u>Bali Process</u>              | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)<br>Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) | <b>IOM</b> , ILO, UN Women, and others)                 | development, poverty eradication and conflict prevention and resolution<br><br>- The facilitation of safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies (this may include the creation and expansion of safe, regular pathways for migration)<br><br>- Protection of labour rights and a safe environment for migrant workers and those in precarious employment, protection of women migrant workers in all sectors and | global compact                    |      |       |

| Region                         | UN Regional Commission  | Relevant ISCMs <sup>ii iii</sup>  | Other Relevant Regional Bodies <sup>iv</sup>   | UN REC / Regional Mechanism and RC Cooperation with IOM | Regional knowledge products by UN REC  | Regional consultation / GCM Event | Date | Place |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|------|-------|
|                                |   |   |  |   | <p>promotion of labour mobility, including circular migration</p> <p>- Cooperation at the national, regional and international levels on all aspects of migration.</p> |                                   |      |       |
| <b>Europe and Central Asia</b> | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) based in Geneva | <p><u>RCs:</u><br/>Almaty Process<br/>Budapest Process<br/>Prague Process</p> <p><u>IRFs:</u><br/>Bali Process<br/>ASEM Conference on Migration<br/>EU-LAC<br/>Khartoum Process<br/>Rabat Process<br/>ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration<br/>5+5 Dialogue<br/>MTM</p> | <p>Eurasian Economic Commission<br/>Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)<br/>European Union<br/>European Free Trade Association (EFTA)</p> | TBD   | UNECE will also be supporting the process through ongoing planned activities within its 2017 programme and is exploring options to that end                            | TBD                               | TBD  | TBD   |

| Region      | UN Regional Commission   | Relevant ISCMs <sup>ii iii</sup>  | Other Relevant Regional Bodies <sup>iv</sup>  | UN REC / Regional Mechanism and RC Cooperation with IOM  | Regional knowledge products by UN REC   | Regional consultation / GCM Event | Date                 | Place        |
|-------------|--|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Middle East | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) based in Beirut | <u>RCPs:</u><br>ARCP<br><u>IRFs:</u><br>ADD<br>5+5 Dialogue<br>Rabat Process<br>MTM | African Union<br>Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD)<br>Arab Maghreb Union<br>League of Arab States<br>Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) | <b>Regional Coordination Mechanism Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region</b> (co-chaired by ESCWA, the League of Arab States and <b>IOM</b> and comprising 16 UN entities and regional organizations with migration expertise) | 1. Thematic study on GCM policy implications, focusing on national policy gaps that require alignment with international standards including policies related to labour migration, migrant rights and access to services, migration and development, expatriates engagement, irregular migration, human trafficking and migrant smuggling.<br><br>2. 2017 Situation Report on International Migration (expected last quarter of 2017) | Two-day regional consultation     | 26-27 September 2017 | Cairo, Egypt |

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[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/15/documents/A\\_71\\_L.5\\_8\\_E.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/15/documents/A_71_L.5_8_E.pdf).

ii Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on migration (ISCM) are state-led, ongoing information-sharing and policy dialogues on the regional, inter-regional or global level for those States with an interest in promoting cooperation in the field of migration. ISCMs comprise of global processes on migration (e.g. GFMD, IDM, UN HLD), Inter-Regional Forums on migration (IRF, bridging two or more regions) and Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCP, covering one, usually geographical, region).

iii Only active ISCMs – RCPs and IRFs are listed here.

iv Non exhaustive listing.