

CLOSING REMARKS

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Seventh Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional, Inter-regional and Global Consultative Processes on Migration “Inter-state Consultation Mechanisms on Migration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” (GRCP 7)

11 October 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

As we conclude, I wish to congratulate and thank all of you for your contributions to the outcome of this meeting. Your participation alone is a success in itself. Bringing the RCP/IRF/REC chairs to this important gathering is of great value to the GCM process. I wish most sincerely to thank you for your contributions to a rich and lively debate. I also wish the Government of the United States, for its generous support of this meeting.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks yesterday, this 7th GRCP is organized in a consecutive year on the heels of the previous GRCP Meeting in 2016. This was done to respond to the important developments towards improving the governance of migration through the Global Compact. GRCP 7 is one of the events during the “Consultation” phase of the process leading to the adoption of a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM).

Just to summarize the results of the past two days, let me make three points, or 3 Fs:

1. the new **FORMAT** of the GRCP;
2. a recap of the **FINDINGS**; and
3. the way **FORWARD**.

I. The new FORMAT of the GRCP Meeting

The format of this GRCP Meeting sets it apart from the previous GRCP Meetings. Like GRCP 6 in 2016, GRCP 7 focused on only one theme – the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

The exchanges among the inter-state consultation mechanisms on migration therefore helped focus their positions and contributions to the GCM – rather than as we normally do – reporting on the achievements since the previous Meeting.

There were other important innovations since 2016.

Like in the case of the 6th GRCP, this year given the theme, the participants were expanded to include important regional partners of inter-state consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCM) – regional economic organizations and UN Regional Economic Commissions.

Also for the first time ever this state-led forum was opened to non-governmental partners in recognition of the importance to the GCM of partnerships.

The core of the proceedings were: (a) breakout groups and (b) interactive discussion sessions towards formulation of joint concrete recommendations to inform the development of the global compact for migration.

To facilitate our discussions this week, a pre-GRCP survey was conducted among inter-state consultation mechanisms on migration and their regional inter-governmental partners to collect their inputs and recommendations to the GCM in advance. 27 entities (78% of entities attending the GRCP) have provided their feedback to the survey questionnaire. This includes 1 Global process on

migration, 12 RCP and 7 IRF, as well as 4 UN Regional Commissions and 3 Regional Economic Organizations.

The survey questionnaires – which constitute the respondents’ formal feedback – will be submitted to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on International Migration and the GCM Co-facilitators.

II. Recap of the FINDINGS

We are not starting from zero.

This GRCP demonstrated the significant role of inter-state consultation mechanisms in migration governance. We have to recognize that it is – to a large degree – thanks to the RCP, IRF and global processes on migration that migration has now been included in the international political agenda. Thanks to the inter-state consultation mechanisms on migration the policy dialogue on migration has evolved from regional to inter-regional and then to global levels. At times the dialogue has been of a non-formal and non-binding nature; with the GCM, however, we are moving ahead towards a comprehensive international cooperation framework on migrants and human mobility – one that comprises principles, commitments and understandings among UN Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions. The vast spectrum of good practices by GRCP Participants is an important foundation on which to build the GCM.

The partnership that all of you represent are important models to be considered for the GCM architecture.

All these efforts culminated in the following:

1. The formulation of joint actionable commitments arising from recommendations made in each region.
2. R-confirmed the Inter-state consultation mechanisms on migration essential role in the GCM implementation and follow-up and review.
3. Recognized partnerships as an essential part of the efforts to advance effective cooperation on migration and promote more effective migration policies.

III. The way FORWARD

The survey, breakout group and panel discussion informed the “Highlights of the Meeting”, which is a summary of the main findings. It was presented at the outset of the Closing Session.

I wish to congratulate all RCPs, IRFs and global processes on migration for pioneering migration governance at regional and cross-regional levels and contributing a comprehensive vision for human mobility. It is thanks to your work and the work of your partners on migration that today we are helping designing an international cooperation framework on migration. The inter-state consultation mechanisms on migration are positioned therefore to play a vital role in the GCM implementation, follow-up and review.

RCPs and other Inter-state Consultation Mechanisms on migration will continue to be important vehicles in addressing migration challenges – sharing information and experiences; building consensus to overcome migration challenges that might otherwise be intractable.

I wish to assure you all of IOM’s continued support – including technical advice, capacity building, research, building synergies and networking.

Once more thanks to all and looking forward to our continued cooperation and partnership.