

General concept note

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration Phase I - consultations (April to November 2017)

1. Introduction

At the high-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2017, the General Assembly adopted by consensus the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants ([A/RES/71/1](#)). In the Declaration, Member States committed to develop a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to be adopted at an intergovernmental conference on international migration to be held in 2018.

In accordance with the resolution on the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (A/RES/71/280), adopted 6 April 2017, the preparatory process leading to the adoption of the global compact includes three phases: (I) consultations (April to November 2017), (II) stocktaking (November 2017 to January 2018) and (III) intergovernmental negotiations (February to July 2018). This note provides an overview of the main preparatory events during phase I.

The President of the General Assembly has appointed His Excellency Mr. Juan Jose Gómez Camacho, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and His Excellency Mr. Jürg Lauber, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, as co-facilitators for the preparatory process leading to the adoption of the global compact for migration in 2018.

The Secretary-General has appointed Ms. Louise Arbour, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, as Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018.

2. Informal thematic sessions

The President of the General Assembly, with the support of the Secretary-General and by drawing upon the expertise of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in particular, other members of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and other relevant entities, will organize six informal thematic sessions on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration.¹ These meetings will address, but not be limited to, the 24 elements outlined in annex II, paragraph 8, of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The six informal thematic sessions, co-chaired by the co-facilitators, will each last for two days, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

(a) Format

Each meeting will be structured in a manner that would optimize the engagement of the Member States on issues under consultation. Each meeting will include expert panels, to be followed by interactive discussions. Each expert panel will be moderated by a Member State, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with regional groups. Selection of panel members will take into account situations in countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as geographical and gender balance. Member States should prepare to engage interactively with the panellists by asking questions and presenting reactions to the issues discussed.

¹ See Annex I for the themes of each of the six thematic meetings

(b) Participation

The meetings will be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies that have observer status with the General Assembly. The General Assembly has invited intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly and organizations and bodies of the United Nations as well as registered national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles. Also invited are registered non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and accredited representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, diaspora communities and migrant organizations.² Please see Annex I to this concept note for details on the stakeholder participation.

(c) Procedural notes

For each meeting a procedural note will be circulated by the President of the General Assembly approximately three to four weeks in advance of the respective informal thematic session outlining the programme and the organization of work.

(d) Issue briefs

The Secretary-General of the Conference will lead the preparation of inter-agency issues briefs on behalf of the Secretary-General, supported by the International Organization for Migration and by drawing upon the expertise of the Global Migration Group and other relevant entities. The issue briefs will provide an overview of the contemporary realities of migration and covering issues such as migration trends, drivers, impacts and governance. The briefs will be evidence-based and forward looking and will identify policy, operational and systemic challenges and barriers and practical recommendations for actionable proposals on the way ahead. The issue briefs will be made available to Member States approximately four weeks in advance of each informal thematic session.

(e) Contributions of Member States and other stakeholders

Member States and other stakeholders are invited to provide concrete recommendations for the global compact. In preparing inputs, Member States and other stakeholders may wish to draw inspiration from the list of possible elements for the global compact, as contained in paragraph 8 of Annex II to the resolution 71/1. Inputs received will be made available on the dedicated website (<http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/>).

(f) Voluntary Trust Fund contributions

In accordance with OP 31 of A/RES/71/280, a voluntary trust fund has been established for the intergovernmental conference and its preparatory process, primarily to support the travel and participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and encourages Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing to the trust fund. Contributions to the voluntary trust fund may be accepted from Member States, regional legislative bodies, inter-governmental organizations, and philanthropic organizations. In order to contribute to the Fund, the Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office needs to be signed. Contributors are encouraged to provide un-earmarked contributions. If due to specific donor preferences the un-earmarked contributions are not feasible, donors may earmark their contributions to a specific objective of the Fund. Please contact : Amy Muedin, Office of the SRSG (amy.muedin@un.org) or Griet Cattaert,

² For details on the accreditation process, see <https://fs22.formsite.com/unngls/form35/index.html>

Office of the SRSG (griet.cattaert@un.org) and Olga Aleshina, MPTF Office (olga.aleshina@undp.org)

3. Background information

Member States and relevant stakeholders are invited to provide summaries and concrete recommendations derived from relevant processes, mechanisms and initiatives to the informal thematic sessions. The expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including specialized agencies, funds and programmes, related organizations, regional economic commissions and as well as all relevant special procedures mandate holders and treaty bodies will contribute to the preparations. Background notes on best practices and concrete policies with regard to facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration will be made available on the dedicated website (<http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/>)

4. Roles

(a) Role of panellists

Panellists will be selected due to their personal expertise on the relevant subject matter. As such, they can complement information on the issue brief and raise other issues not necessarily included in the issue brief. They can provide examples of good practices and can present their own recommendations to Member States for discussion and eventual consideration. They are asked to make informal and provocative interventions.

(b) Role of the moderator

The moderator must ensure that the panels are, in fact, interactive. This may include posing questions to Member States, allowing time for replies, encouraging the panellists to discuss particular areas that merit greater dialogue etc. In addition to the moderating functions, the person would be expected to assist the co-facilitators and the Secretariat in the development of the summary of the thematic session. The moderator would be invited to share his or her impressions with the Member States at the conclusion of the panel. In a summary panel, he or she is expected to participate to reflect on the discussions moderated.

(c) Role of the Member States

Member States are invited to bring their national perspectives and realities to the informal thematic sessions and be prepared to engage. Member States are also invited to listen carefully to the views expressed by others and share their reactions. Delegations should prepare for a dialogue with the panellists and ask questions to each other as well as to the panellists. Member States will have the possibility to submit their written position papers online, but should not read them at the session. Rather, the interventions made should contribute to the discussion by reacting in real time to the comments made and questions posed.

(d) Role of the co-facilitators

The co-facilitators officially chair the informal thematic sessions and have the political responsibility towards the President of the General Assembly to ensure that Member States' contribution is heard. They will work with the Secretary-General of the Conference and the moderators of the panel to deliver a timely summary of each informal thematic session. It is envisioned that they will speak at the beginning and the end of each session, and may also have a role in moderating any discussion among Member States, particularly in the summary panel.

5. Contributions by the United Nations Regional Commissions

The Regional Commissions will provide inputs for the preparatory process by organizing discussions to examine regional and sub-regional aspects of international migration.

6. Contributions by other relevant processes, mechanisms and initiatives

(a) Global Forum on Migration and Development

In 2017, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), co-chaired by Germany and Morocco, will convene under the overall theme “Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development”.³ Roundtable discussions will be guided by the six themes of the informal thematic sessions in order to maximize the forum's contribution to the global compact.

(b) International Dialogue on Migration

The International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) is IOM's principal forum for migration policy dialogue.⁴ This year's two IDM will be dedicated to supporting the development of the global compact. The first IDM workshop, to be held in New York in April 2017, will discuss international cooperation and governance of migration with a view to identifying elements, models and commitments for the global compact. The second workshop, to be held in Geneva in July 2017, will explore policy perspectives and practical aspects regarding the protection and assistance of migrants in vulnerable situations.

(c) Regional consultative processes on migration

During the period April to November 2017, several events are planned to be held in the context of regional consultative processes on migration with a view to contributing to the global compact on migration. These events will culminate in a global meeting of chairs and secretariats of regional consultative processes on migration, to be held in Geneva in October 2017.

These and other relevant meetings are outlined in the workplan to be presented to Member States.

7. Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings

During April to November 2017, the President of the General Assembly will organize two informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, parliaments, diasporas, migrants, migrant organizations and the private sector. National human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles are also invited to attend these hearings. Additional multi-stakeholder hearings will be organized in phases II and III of the preparatory process. A summary of the hearings will serve as an input for the intergovernmental negotiations on the global compact.

8. Dedicated website

Member States are advised to regularly check the website <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/> for the latest information pertaining to preparations of the global compact for migration and follow-up to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

³ <https://gfmd.org/germany-morocco-gfmd-2017-2018>

⁴ <https://www.iom.int/idm-2017-global-compact-migration>

Main preparatory events for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

EVENT	LOCATION	DATES*
Informal thematic sessions		
Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance	United Nations Office, Geneva	8-9 May 2017
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	United Nations Headquarters, New York	22-23 May 2017
International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration	United Nations Office, Geneva	19-20 June 2017
Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits	United Nations Headquarters, New York	24-25 July 2017
Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims	United Nations Office, Vienna	4-5 September 2017
Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures	United Nations Office, Geneva	2-3 October 2017
United Nations Regional Commissions		
Regional preparatory meeting, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Santiago	August 2017
Regional preparatory meeting, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	Beirut	26-28 September 2017
Regional preparatory meeting, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	Addis Ababa	19-20 October 2017
Regional preparatory meeting, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	Bangkok	6-8 November 2017
Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings		
Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing (full day)	New York	26 July 2017
Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing (full day)	Geneva	4 October 2017 TBC
Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing (half day)	New York	18 December 2017
Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing (half day)	New York	Mid-February 2018 TBA
Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing (half day)	New York	April 2018 TBA
Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing (half day)	New York	June/July 2018 TBA

For other relevant meetings, processes, mechanisms and initiatives please consult the workplan developed by the Secretary-General

(*) Subject to change