

High-level webinar for ISCM Chairs and Secretariat Heads in preparation to the GCM Regional Reviews

24 September 2020

Opening statement by IOM DG

Excellencies,

It is an honour to join you today for this discussion in preparation for the regional reviews of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The Global Compact remains a watershed moment in multilateral relations: the principal text by which to guide Member States' collective efforts to improve international cooperation on migration to benefit governments, communities and migrants themselves. Grounded in international law and supported by core guiding principles, the GCM not only examines migration in a 360-degree manner, but also incorporates wide-ranging partnerships both within governments and throughout society.

Throughout the Compact, Member States have stressed that cooperation can take place at all levels – local, country, regional and global. And that, going forward, we should build on expertise already garnered, and on those institutions and fora, which have been built up in past years dedicated to furthering the pursuit of migration that is safe, orderly and regular. Indeed, the compact's true impact will be measured by how it's 23 objectives and

guiding principles are being applied in daily practice for the tangible benefit of migrants and their communities.

This is where your expertise and experience in the regional consultative processes (RCPs) and the inter-State consultations mechanisms on migration (ISCMs) will provide a valuable contribution to the regional reviews.

Excellencies,

In seeking to discuss the progress made at local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact, Member States agree to put in place a follow-up and review process -in the framework of the United Nations – through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

In particular, they wanted to ensure the success of the Global Compact in its implementation, follow-up and review through the following measures:

- i. inclusivity, ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders, especially from civil society;
- ii. a commitment to dialogue, recognizing that no State's migration priorities can be achieved in isolation; and
- iii. a premium placed on engagement, ensuring that the Compact does not gather dust but, rather, remains a living document.

Member States further recognized that most international migration takes place within regions and invited all relevant processes, the UN Regional Economic Commissions and all Regional Consultative Processes on

migration and other inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration, to review implementation of the Compact, beginning this year in 2020, with the participation of stakeholders.

Each region is different in its migration experiences, and so too we are seeing differences in how Member States in different regions are choosing to conduct regional reviews of the Global Compact. Indeed, regional reviews do not need to be limited to one forum, one review or one outcome. Rather, we should consider the regional reviews as a process – or series – of discussions, across a range of venues and throughout the year, contributing to a greater understanding of regional and sub-regional migration issues to, in the words of the Global Compact, ‘effectively inform each edition of the International Migration Review Forum’ that will take place for the first time in 2022 under the auspices of the General Assembly.

Seeking to support Member States with the regional reviews, the UN Network on Migration – as the principle UN coordination body that will ensure support to Member States in the GCM implementation and follow-up and review process – has put forward a proposal emphasizing the need for consistency of approach, within and between regions, based on the vision and guiding principles of the Global Compact. It also recognizes that there is no-one regional review, rather it presents an opportunity for multiple fora to engage.

To assist in moving the process forward the UN Network has developed templates that could guide national governments as well as regional

consultative processes, inter-State consultation mechanisms or other relevant regional processes and organizations as they prepare for the review of the Compact at the regional level.

The Network is further working with the Member States under the auspices of the different UN Regional Economic Commissions in organizing intergovernmental meetings for Member States to review the implementation of the Compact in the regions within the framework of the United Nations. Those meeting will offer a 360-degree review of the compact and will be open to all relevant stakeholders as requested in the Compact – including to inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration. The meetings are scheduled to take place between November this year and March 2021.

Excellencies,

We have invited you today to discuss how regional consultative processes and more broadly the inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration can contribute to the Global Compact's regional review process. And perhaps even more importantly, to outline why IOM, as the Member, Observer or secretariat of many of the inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration, believes it is important to encourage inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration to actively contribute to the GCM follow-up and review.

Inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge focused on regional and inter-regional migration dynamics and policy making. Indeed, you bring strategies, procedures, standards, action plans, initiatives, and funds directly relevant to almost each of the 23

objectives listed in the Compact, and that will enrich and guide the Compact's regional review discussions.

We cannot review the implementation of the Compact within regions, without also reflecting on the impact of the current pandemic. While the pandemic is not a crisis of migration, it nevertheless has fundamentally impacted mobility, and raised unexpected policy challenges for governments within every region of the world: both exacerbating many vulnerabilities migrants face – often at the cost of their lives – while opening up space for new, rights-based innovative solutions, for example as we are seeing in some states with regards to finding alternatives to immigration detention.

The regional review process thus also offers a first opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to come together, discuss and evaluate how to strengthen regional cooperation and how the objectives and actions outlined in the Compact can guide regions in developing inclusive COVID-19 preparedness, prevention, response and recovery measures that protect human rights and enhance the positive, development effects of human mobility.

I look forward to our discussions here today, to help further the contributions of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration to the implementation of the Global Compact.