



Sub-Regional Consultations on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Southern Africa

21 and 22 September 2017

Concept Note

Background

On 19 September 2016, Member States adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, A/70/L.61, which in Annex II sets out steps towards the achievement of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM) in 2018. Member States called on IOM to make use of its premier policy forum, the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), to contribute to the preparatory process of the global compact.

According to the Declaration, the global compact will outline a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions; make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration; present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility; and deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration.

The global compact is to be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Resolution 70/1) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Resolution 69/313), and to be informed by the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development adopted in October 2013 (Resolution 68/4). Modalities for the process to negotiate the compact and prepare for the 2018 Conference were adopted by the UNGA on 6 April 2017 (Resolution A/71/L.58).

The global compact is framed consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and its scope is defined in Annex II of the New York Declaration. It is intended to:

1. address all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects;
2. make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration;

3. present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility;
4. set out a range of actionable commitments, means of implementation and a framework for follow-up and review among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions;

The Global Compact on Migration includes targets and indicators, means of implementation, and mechanism for performance review, monitoring and improvement, pertaining to practices on the six thematic areas;

1. Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia, gender discrimination and intolerance
2. Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, and gender and other inequalities, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution
3. International cooperation and governance of migration in all dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration
4. Contributions of migrants and diaspora, including women and youth, to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits
5. Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims
6. Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures.

However, additional themes that are not addressed above or which the regions will identify as important to them can be added during the consultative process.

The modalities resolution envisages that the RECs and sub-regional bodies, together with other entities in the UN system, and in particular IOM, will organize discussions among member states and other relevant stakeholders on regional and sub-regional dimensions to provide national and regional perspectives and inputs to the GCM negotiations.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The main objective of this consultation is to develop a regional report that will feed into the African Regional report and Common Position, through fleshing out Southern African regional issues based on thematic areas of the Global Compact.

The consultative process should follow the following guidelines:

- Based on data, evidence and analysis of trends, levels, and patterns
- Provide clear examples of best practices that may be emulated.
- Give examples of innovative approaches that are being implemented.
- Review each of the six thematic areas, but weight them according to the reality of Southern Africa

2. Methodology

To facilitate the consultative process in Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the African Union Commission and International Organization for Migration (IOM) have formed a Technical Committee of the GCM, is organizing sub-regional consultations aimed at developing an African Continental Report and the Common Outcome Document in preparation for the Intergovernmental Migration Conference in 2018. There are 5 ECA regions on the continent. These include Eastern Africa, Central Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa and Western Africa. All Member States and their respective RECs in these regions will be brought together to deliberate on specific sub-regional issues.

The GCM is a member state driven process. Mechanisms have been planned in the African region that will facilitate the member States to bring their national perspectives and realities into the process. In order to optimize the engagement of the African Member States and reflect the sub-regional specificities of the African continent, consultative meetings will be held for each of the five ECA sub-regions. The intensive consultative process by member states and the contribution of a number of experts will help produce a comprehensive document that will result in Africa's contribution to the Global Compact.

The consultative meeting structure includes:

- i. Plenary sessions/interactive panels with Q&As
 - a. Plenary sessions focusing on the six thematic areas and presented by the experts and resource persons.
 - b. Breakout sessions to discuss the country or regional specificities on the six themes
 - c. Report back sessions
- ii. Thematic sessions on the six themes to discuss challenges, gaps and recommendations related to migration

3. OUTCOME/DELIVERABLES

The expected outcome of this exercise is production of the Southern African regional report on the Global compact on safe, orderly and regular Migration.

The report will feed into the Africa Regional Report on regional report on the Global compact on safe, orderly and regular Migration.

The main outcome of all the sub-regional meetings will be an Outcome Document to be presented in Mexico on 4 and 5 December 2017.

4. PARTICIPANTS

- a) Government officials responsible for Migration
- b) Focal persons on migration in RECS
- c) Experts on migration from academia
- d) Civil society organizations dealing with migrants
- e) UN agencies (as observers)

5. DATES AND VENUE

Lusaka, Zambia

21-22 September 2017
