

Experts Meeting on Global Compact on Migration

(By Invitation Only)

8-9 June 2017, Berlin

Concept Note

The New York Declaration by the UN General Assembly, issued in September 2016, proposed a Global Compact for (safe, orderly and regular) Migration (GCM) and a separate Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Unlike the GCR which has a relatively clear normative framework (Geneva Convention) and a lead implementing agency (UNHCR), the proposed GCM lacks such a framework and governance architecture.

As a contribution to the negotiations leading up to the intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018, this meeting will bring together a few global migration experts in an attempt to provide a concrete vision for the GCM from a global development perspective.

Definition

For the purpose of this meeting, the following **working definition** of the GCM is proposed:

“An internationally negotiated framework of actionable commitments to guide member states and international organizations, to harness the benefits of migration and address the challenges.”

Objectives

1. Clarify **thematic elements of a normative framework for global governance of migration**. Experts will summarize and cluster key themes that need to be addressed by the normative framework in order to enable migration as a driver for development, suggest policy priorities, examine existing conventions, guidelines, practices and data bases, and identify gaps.
2. Based on the above, develop **guidance on the operationalization of migration-related programs** in development. This component will elaborate on concrete, operational aspects of migration as a topic for development actors:
 - Which actors must be strengthened to take responsibility for safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility and at which levels (global, regional, national and subnational)?
 - What kind of administrative structure is needed (linked to the question of leadership and lead organization)?
 - What kind of technical capacity building might be needed to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration and mobility?
 - How can/should institutions and activities be financed?
 - How should commitments in the GCM be monitored
 - How are these commitments related to Agenda 2030?
3. Explore any **overlap between the GCM and the GCR**, especially in the case of mixed flows of refugees and migrants.

Participants

To balance the number of experts with the goal of substantive and result-oriented brainstorming, the meeting will be restricted to only 15-20 internationally recognized experts and a limited number of representatives from the organizing agencies (BMZ/GIZ and KNOMAD). To avoid any conflict of interest that may arise while discussing the global governance architecture, experts will be invited in their individual capacity, not as representatives of their organizations or governments.

Themes

The agenda will be structured according to the most pressing challenges and potential benefits of migration. The focus will be on addressing the nexus between migration and development. Suggested themes are listed below:

1. Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labor mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications, and other relevant measures:
 - Low-skilled migration: regular and irregular migration, trafficking, abusive employers, reducing recruitment costs
 - Skill certification for low-skilled migrants
 - Job competition for native workers in host community
 - Smuggling
 - Congestion and fiscal costs of social services
2. International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration:
 - Return Migration
 - Reintegration
 - Aid conditionality
 - Integration of migrants in host community (in the South as well)
3. Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits:
 - Mobilization of remittances
 - Mobilization of diaspora resources (including portability of earned benefits)
 - Innovation and entrepreneurship
4. Addressing drivers of migration through sustainable development and poverty eradication, particularly through:
 - Income and job creation in poor countries
 - Addressing demographic imbalance
 - Forced migration (due to climate change and natural disasters)