



Migration Week Side Event

Concept Note

9 December 2018, Marrakesh, Morocco

Innovative Solutions to Enhancing Pathways for Regular Migration

Organizers: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, IOM.

1. Theme and Background:

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) considers migration in all its dimensions, setting out objectives for the international community to work towards, commitments for Member States in support of these objectives, and best practices that States can draw on to meet these commitments. Implementation of the Compact will begin following its adoption at the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakech. Within this framework, this side event seeks to explore a selection of tangible and concrete solutions to implement.

With over a billion people on the move today, one third of whom cross international borders, the importance of comprehensive national migration systems is a key aspect of safe, orderly, regular migration. Increasing and strengthening regular migration pathways is the guiding theme of this side event, as it seeks to highlight informative and innovative ways for States to enhance their migration management capacities, while assisting migrants throughout all stages of their journey:

Before migration: through easily accessible information on regular migration options and employment opportunities corresponding to migrants' skills and competencies, pre-departure orientation, health assessments, documentation, and vulnerability-sensitive visa processing;

During migration: through effective border management, document verification and movement support, skills recognition and matching, access to decent work conditions, social benefits and redress mechanisms; and

Post-migration: through reintegration and support for the transfer of resources and capital (social, such as skills, knowledge and innovation, as well as financial) as well as social benefits, entitlements and pension rights.

As part of the GCM, objectives 3, 4 and 5¹ highlight the need to strengthen the availability of regular pathways for temporary and permanent migration for work at all skills levels, for study and family reunification, along with improving processes at all stages along the migration cycle. The Compact provides examples of best practices to achieve this, such as ensuring access to accurate information and documentation, adapting migration pathways to align with labour market needs in both countries of origin and destination, and responding to the needs of migrants and members of their families, in particular those in a situation of vulnerability. Well-managed national migration systems also benefit from collaboration and partnerships with non-governmental stakeholders from civil society, academia and the private sector, and these will also be explored.

2. Content and expected outcomes:

Content

At this side event, stakeholders will: present examples of innovative solutions for strengthening national migration systems that enhance regular migration and address factors that exacerbate the vulnerabilities of migrants; discuss the challenges and opportunities with the implementation of these solutions; and identify important messages towards GCM implementation.

Canada, in partnership with other governments from both countries of origin and destination, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), will host this side event. It will explore components of well-managed migration systems, detailing specific examples which will be presented by representatives from relevant ministries. Attendees will then be invited to ask questions and share additional examples.

The submitted examples will represent the first contribution of evidence-based good practices to the Global Knowledge Platform.

As the United Nations Migration Agency, IOM has been working with governments and partners in providing tailored services to migrants of various categories and profiles for decades. As a result of this experience, IOM is uniquely positioned to support the elaboration, testing and scaling up of innovative approaches to migration management at the local, national, regional and international levels. These innovative solutions, align with the objectives and the guiding principles of the GCM, and help to ensure the challenges of migration are addressed and the benefits maximized, for both States and migrants alike.

¹ GCM Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration; Objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation; Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

Examples of Innovative Solutions Enhancing Regular Migration Pathways

Example One – Provision of effective support to migrants at the pre-departure stage by capitalizing on current technology and mobilization of partners in countries of origin and destination communities - Canada

The Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) program is an overseas orientation initiative funded by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in over 40 countries across the globe. COA is offered to visa-ready migrants to Canada, including refugees, economic immigrants, and family class immigrants. COA provides newcomers with relevant, accurate, consistent and timely information needed to make informed settlement decisions.

Example Two – Enhanced visa processing in support of family reunification to Germany

The IOM Family Assistance Programme (FAP), funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, facilitates the reunification of families in a situation of vulnerability through a comprehensive solution that protects, prepares and reunites migrants through existing legal pathways. The programme protects beneficiaries from misinformation and exploitation by unscrupulous visa brokers and smugglers while facilitating resources for the assimilation of families into German society through integration resources.

Through in-person and remote assistance operations across ten countries, FAP enhances the regular migration of a high volume of migrant families within a safe, empowering and migrant friendly environment by informing them about the respective visa requirements, conducting completeness checks on their application and fast tracking highly vulnerable cases.

Example Three - Strengthening common responses by aligning support at pre-departure and post-arrival stage across countries of origin and of destination – United Arab Emirates

The Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme (CIOP) implemented currently in the context of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) helps operationalize a coordinated management system for the provision of tailored pre-employment, pre-departure and post-arrival orientation (PEO, PDO and PAO) services for temporary contractual workers (TCWs) in the GCC states. With technical support from IOM, the governments work towards developing a CIOP regional guide and a corresponding management system, which will then be tailored to operations in the specific country contexts of ADD Member States. The CIOP will contribute to strengthening the integration and protection of TCWs in the national labour markets of ADD Member States through piloting the ADD vision of CIOP. This aims to enhance transparency of information, protect workers from risks of exploitation and abuse, support prospective workers' informed decision-making, and reduce barriers at the work place while promoting social integration.

Example Four - The development, benefits and implementation of a Human Mobility Law to facilitate regular migration pathways – Ecuador

Ecuador's Human Mobility Law, in place since 2017, represents a major step in the protection of migrants and enhancement of human mobility by providing a framework for the regularization of immigrants, asylum seekers, and victims of trafficking and human smuggling, as well as their families, among others. The law also establishes important principles, such as equal treatment before the law and the non-criminalization of irregular migration.

The law favors integration measures in support of Ecuador's development. The Human Mobility Law offers an example of comprehensive protection for all people on the move.

Expected Outcomes

- Showcase among stakeholders and Member State representatives, examples of key components that make up a well-managed national migration system, with a view to increasing the capacity of states to strengthen their migration management, including by enhancing the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
- Generate evidence-based good practices for inclusion in the capacity building mechanism's Global Knowledge Platform, to assist in GCM implementation.
- Provide a forum for UN partners, Member States and non-state stakeholders to discuss and improve their and other attendees' understanding of the benefits of strengthening national migration systems, including by offering concrete examples of innovative solutions for diverse regular migration pathways, which can be applied in a range of national contexts.
- Mobilize technical, financial and human resources at global, regional and national levels to support capacity building in this area.