



Concept Note

Kickstarting GCM Implementation

**9 December 2018, 15.30-17.15h
at the Orangerie Conference Room, Hotel Palmeraie Gulf Palace**

In the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Member States articulate their vision on how the international community can best cooperate on and manage migration. While the articulation of a common vision was a remarkable achievement in and of itself, we now need to work together to put that comprehensive vision into practice. The Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the GCM, to be held in Marrakesh on 10-11 December 2018, will kickstart what the UN Secretary-General has called the “era of implementation.”

The Global Compact underlines the importance of cooperation among states as well as other relevant stakeholders in support of its implementation. In addition, synergies between the implementation of the GCM, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda will be essential to ensure coherence. Strong and long-term commitments from countries of origin, destination and transit, from civil society, the UN and from migrants and their organizations themselves are needed to turn promises into practice, to ensure that the GCM succeeds in catalyzing concrete action. Such action could take place at global, regional, national and local levels and include development and update of migration policies and systems, as well as measures to better protect the human rights of migrants, lower remittance costs, eradicate human trafficking and deaths resulting from dangerous migration, allow migrants to use their skills in host countries, and foster conditions that help migrants adjust well to their new homes and reintegrate successfully back home, among others.

To realize these actions and commitments, Member States will need to explore implementation of the GCM with feasible and fit-for-purpose tools that meet their specific needs. This may involve the development of national plans based on identified priorities, capacity development needs, and graduated time-lines.

Objective:

This side event will shine the spotlight on the tools and practices that governments and other partners can employ to better manage migration and thereby aim to meet the GCM's objectives. IOM and its partners have developed a range of such tools, programmes and practices that can help states take steps to improve both their own migration management as well as cooperation with other states and stakeholders on migration, thereby supporting implementation of the GCM. Some of these tools and initiatives are cross-cutting, including those to support the development of evidence-based comprehensive migration policies and to promote policy coherence, while others are relevant to specific aspects of migration and GCM objectives. Making use of existing tools would allow states and partners to build on the work that has been done already and to achieve tangible results within a short time-frame.

During the side-event, governments and other stakeholders, speaking from the floor, will have an opportunity to highlight initiatives already in place, as well as actions, partnerships and innovative ideas they would like to see in the coming years as means of implementing the GCM.

Guiding questions:

- What are your government's or organization's priorities in the short, medium and long-term and how can these be translated into plans, including through multi-stakeholder consultations and actions?
- What tools does your government or organization have in place now, or wish to put in place, to facilitate implementation of GCM objectives?
- What steps will your government or organization take towards implementing possible national plans, including tools and partnerships?

Format & envisioned programme:

The side-event will bring together states and other stakeholders for a dynamic discussion on taking forward GCM implementation.

After the opening and keynote remarks, the event will feature short and targeted interventions from states and other relevant stakeholders (on the panel and from the floor) that have successfully implemented concrete tools and practices in a diverse range of regional and national realities.

It will include a discussion of initiatives and tools that are:

- Cross-cutting and can support implementation of GCM as a whole; and
- Theme-specific and can support the achievement of particular GCM objectives.

The conversation will allow the international community to get a better understanding of government priorities and potential gaps where the UN system and its partners will need to offer support. After the interventions of panelists and from the floor, a questions and answer session will be open to all participants.

Panel

- H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly (tbc)
- The Government of Morocco, name tbc
- H.E. Mr. Antonio Vitorino, IOM Director General
- H.E. Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration

Partner interventions: tbc