



**Dialogue #2: Partnerships and innovative initiatives for the way forward**  
*Intergovernmental Conference, 11 December 2018*  
*Marrakech, Morocco*

1. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) underlines that improving cooperation on migration is a task for all levels of government and all elements of society. States are central to shaping and implementing national and international frameworks on migration. Local authorities, the private sector, trade unions, civil society, academia, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, the media and other stakeholders – crucially including migrants and diaspora groups – also play essential roles in making migration work for all.
2. The GCM's guiding principles on a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach promote multi-stakeholder partnerships as central to our efforts to address migration in all its dimensions. The GCM identifies possibilities for multi-stakeholder action across all 23 of its objectives and their implementation, follow-up and review. As Member States move ahead with implementing the GCM, they may wish to give early attention to five areas of cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders:<sup>1</sup>
  - Gathering, analysing and disseminating data and information on migration;
  - Empowering, protecting and assisting migrants, and fostering social inclusion;
  - Fostering skills development, and ensuring access to employment, fair and ethical recruitment and decent work for migrants, including young people;
  - Promoting the economic opportunities and financial inclusion of migrants, while facilitating remittances and reducing their costs to allow migrants to share the benefits of their work; and
  - Empowering migrants and diasporas to contribute to sustainable development both in their countries of origin and destination.
3. In addition, the GCM underlines that migrants and diaspora communities should have the opportunity to contribute to sustainable development in their countries of origin, transit and destination (objective 19). This is a crucial feature of the Compact: it is not only a framework for managing migration, but also a call for migrants to play a greater role in shaping their own futures.
4. To fulfill the GCM, therefore, it will be optimal not only for Member States to work together but also to involve the widest possible range of stakeholders in the Compact's implementation. In designing partnerships for action at all levels, it is necessary to consider:
  - Whether they are sufficiently broad and inclusive to deal with policy questions around migration effectively and with wide public support;
  - Whether they are focused on achieving specific policy goals, with clear timeframes; and
  - Whether they are able to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise and financial resources.

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<sup>1</sup> The subheadings have been formulated by the conference secretariat for editorial purposes.

5. The UN Network on Migration (Network), established by the UN Secretary-General and welcomed in the GCM, will mark a significant advance in the UN system's effort to ensure effective, timely and coordinated support to Member States' on migration issues, including through engagement with a broader range of other stakeholders. The Network will also help establish and facilitate the capacity building mechanism as called for in the GCM, to foster further partnerships and innovative ideas amongst Member States and all stakeholders, particularly through its connection hub and global knowledge platform.
6. The GCM also highlights the potential for *innovation* in migration management. New technologies and data-gathering techniques are creating new opportunities for these actors to work together, allowing for more detailed data and analysis of labour market needs, skills recruitment and migration trends. In some cases, national and local authorities can develop and implement these innovative solutions. But in others, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and philanthropic actors, including diaspora associations, may be better placed to do so. The GCM is a framework for governments and stakeholders to innovate around migration together.
7. As the GCM highlights, the importance of all these stakeholders to fulfilling its objectives means that they must be directly involved in the International Migration Review Forum and related regional and national processes, in addition to interacting with the Network. Member States and stakeholder representatives should use the opportunity of the Marrakech conference to explore how to work together through these processes and mechanisms in the future.

#### ***Possibilities for partnerships and innovation***

8. *Gathering and disseminating information on migration:* The GCM recognizes the importance of better disaggregated data and analysis as the basis of strong migration policy-making. While this is primarily a task for national government agencies and statistical authorities, local authorities, businesses and civil society organizations can help gather information, analyzing its immediate relevance and sharing it with migrants and communities. Private companies, especially working in the tech sector, are developing new methods for analyzing large quantities of data that can help us understand migration in unprecedented levels of detail. Academics and other experts can drive research agendas on migration, including its linkages to sustainable development. Opportunities include:
  - Private organizations and authorities can collect big data and promote machine learning to predict future demand for labour and emerging patterns of migration, enabling better informed policy-making;
  - Member States can channel thinking on emerging issues by convening national or multilateral "migration laboratories" of experts from different fields to identify and explore migration trends;
  - National and local authorities can work with non-governmental organizations and migrant organizations to develop better locally-focused data and policies on migrants' needs and experiences.
9. *Empowering and protecting migrants:* While the foundation of protection for migrants rests on strong legal frameworks and national enforcement mechanisms, local authorities, including urban leaders,

have an essential role in ensuring that these rules are put into practice. Local authorities, civil society organizations and community leaders all have essential roles in promoting the integration and empowerment of migrants. Diaspora groups and migrant associations are also important voices in these discussions, and women's and children's organizations can empower female and young migrants through information and advocacy. The media – including social media companies – contribute to shaping broader debates about migration and have a responsibility to fight discriminatory narratives about migration. The globalization of information means that many of these actors participate in conversations on migration spanning borders and societies. Opportunities include:

- National and local authorities addressing large mixed flows of migrants and refugees can fund and empower non-governmental actors, such as youth organizations and faith-based groups to provide locally-tailored support to vulnerable migrants in support of official assistance;
- The private sector and trade unions – working in partnership with the relevant authorities – can form cooperative alliances to identify, report and end abuses of migrant labourers;
- Media organizations and migrant representatives can create transnational alliances to explain in the public domain the realities of migration and experiences of migrants so as to counter prejudice;
- Civil society, National Human Rights Institutions and other stakeholders can play an important role in strengthening accountability through monitoring mechanisms; and
- Schools and universities can integrate learning modules on migration-related issues to sensitize students on key aspects of migration.

10. *Skills development, fair recruitment and decent work*: The most extensive references in the GCM to multi-stakeholder cooperation relate to the objectives concerning fair recruitment, skills development and labour protection. While Member States create the legal and policy frameworks for migrants' economic activities, the private sector shapes the demand for labour and can create opportunities for migrants to fulfill their potential through decent work. Business women and men are often better placed to identify the skills migrants need and can help support their development, and local authorities can also play an important role in identifying skills gaps and economic opportunities. Businesses have a special responsibility for ensuring fair and ethical recruitment and decent working conditions for migrant workers, and for both reducing the incidence of irregular employment and fighting the exploitation of migrants. Trades unions can offer support and advocacy for migrant workers and play an important role in addressing the needs and concerns of both the domestic workforce and those of workers from abroad. Opportunities include:

- Employers and other stakeholders can monitor progress in meeting fair recruitment guidelines and standards, in cooperation with governments;
- Local authorities can develop integration policies to facilitate migrants' contributions to local labour markets, helping cities and regions attract talent; and
- Working within regional and transnational frameworks, non-governmental organizations and trades unions can cooperate across borders to ensure migrants have access to up-to-date and impartial information on economic opportunities and their legal rights in destination countries.
- Employers can champion apprenticeships, internships, vocational training, skills partnerships and other arrangements for circular migration – establishing systems for predictable, regular migration

to fill gaps in labour markets – and provide follow-on support to migrants returning to countries of origin.

11. *Facilitating remittances*: The GCM’s objective to “promote safer, faster and cheaper” remittance transfers requires the private sector companies involved in money transfers to work with Member States to reduce costs and obstacles. The GCM also envisages innovations to assist migrants – such as new e-banking tools – that may create opportunities for business. In this context:

- Private sector actors and government authorities can provide accessible information on remittances, for example through websites for the comparison of costs for remittance transfers which can lead to helpful competition between banks and other money transfer agencies and the lowering of prices;
- Regulators and technological innovators can cooperate on rolling out new tools to facilitate secure and efficient remittances transfers, with a focus on cutting remittance costs to 3% by 2030; and
- Civil society groups, including diaspora groups, can educate disadvantaged migrant communities – such as those facing language difficulties – on how to avoid exploitation in the remittance process.

12. *Empowering migrants and diasporas to contribute to sustainable development*: The GCM offers an ambitious vision of support to migrants and diasporas in enhancing their contribution to sustainable development. This requires action by a broad range of stakeholders, ranging from researchers focusing on development issues to migrant entrepreneurs. Well integrated migrants typically contribute more to their countries of origin, as their wages are higher. Objective 19 of the GCM also calls for cooperation with the private sector to facilitate knowledge transfer by migrants and/or diaspora members to their countries of origin, especially those in technical fields and in high demand. This set of ambitions, in line with the SDGs, will require innovative partnerships. Options include:

- Member States can encourage national academies and research councils to develop transnational and inter-disciplinary research networks to study new approaches to migration and development;
- Diaspora entrepreneurs who invest in countries of origin can contribute knowledge and capital to projects such as hospitals and clinics, creating jobs and opportunities as well as direct health benefits; and
- Private sector firms employing significant numbers of migrants can invest in training programs, education and social or environmental projects in their countries of origin. Such programs not only advance sustainable development but raise migrants’ skills and incentivize returns.

### ***Opportunities for innovation***

13. In parallel with developing partnerships to maximize the benefits of migration, stakeholders can also address how technological advances can promote effective migration management. Advances in technology have the potential to revolutionize the evidence base for policy-making. New technologies can enable (i) more effective sharing of information with both migrants and host communities on the rules and regulations of migration, as well as labour market needs, support and counselling; (ii) keeping reliable documentation relating to migrants; and (iii) allowing migrants and diasporas to transfer their money, skills, know-how and ideas across borders without incurring high costs.

14. New technologies must be handled with care. There is a risk of infringing on the privacy and human rights of migrants through the misuse of data, for example. The GCM offers a framework for responsible innovations on migration by both Member States and other actors. Education on new technologies can also be a barrier-breaking tool to empower migrants, notably women and youth. Options include:
- Online platforms such as “iDiaspora”<sup>2</sup> offer migrants opportunities to share ideas and information across borders, sharing good practice on cultural, social and economic issues;
  - Mobile technology and the internet offer migrants new, cheaper ways to transmit remittances home – spreading the benefits of migration and creating opportunities for innovative firms; and
  - Simple apps on cell phones and computers – such as geolocation apps that allow families to know the whereabouts of migrant relatives in an emergency – can be life-saving devices.
15. Innovative approaches to migration not only involve technology, but also include new approaches to policy-making on migration (at all levels) and delivering services to migrants. Reflecting the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to migration, local and national authorities can consult more closely with non-governmental partners – such as community leaders, faith-based groups and migrant representatives themselves – on how to foster social inclusion and integration. Groups representing migrant women and young people can, for example, offer concrete advice on their empowerment.

### *Involving stakeholders in implementing the GCM*

16. Because so many different types of stakeholders must be involved in supporting the fulfillment of the GCM, the Compact recognizes their role in implementation and follow-up processes including the International Migration Review Forum. Civil society, the private sector, trade unions and other actors were closely involved in discussions on and made important contributions to the GCM and will remain heavily involved in its future. There are opportunities to work, including through established stakeholder groups such as national chambers of commerce, the GFMD Business Mechanism and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions or individually in a whole-of-society approach.
17. There is also a need to promote such forums or platforms at local and national levels, as through the creation of multi-stakeholder working groups to share ideas and expertise with authorities. Those Member States that have already engaged in such multi-stakeholder initiatives may wish to share best practices with others.
18. Different types of stakeholders – including representatives of migrant groups -- should be encouraged to coordinate globally and regionally to identify the most effective ways to engage with the implementation of the GCM. Potential opportunities include:
- Working with media and technology companies to raise awareness of the GCM, similar to awareness-raising around the SDGs;

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<sup>2</sup> <https://idiaspora.org/>

- Harnessing and expanding existing multi-stakeholder frameworks, such as the Global Mayoral Forum and the GFMD’s Civil Society Days, to develop fresh ideas on implementing the GCM and partner with the Network; and
- Establishing a multi-stakeholder advisory committee – bringing together representatives of NGOs, cities, migrant groups, employers’ and workers’ organizations, etc. – to support the International Migration Review Forum and related consultations.

### *Questions for the Dialogue*

19. In the course of this dialogue, participants may wish to reflect on:

- How to work with multi-stakeholders to advance disaggregated data collection and analysis, while being sensitive to privacy and data protection principles;
- How to build multi-stakeholder partnerships, including frameworks bringing together governmental and non-governmental actors, that help protect and empower migrants;
- How to engage more effectively with youth and ensure that their voices and ideas are mainstreamed in the development of migration policy;
- How the private sector, trade unions and other stakeholders can bring new energy to skills development, fair recruitment and decent work for migrants in partnership with Member States;
- How stakeholders can work together to facilitate remittances and promote financial inclusion;
- How the private sector, labour organizations and civil society can empower migrants, diasporas and other stakeholders to drive progress towards the SDGs;
- How to harness the benefits of new technologies to empower migrants and manage migration, while also protecting migrants from cyber-crime and other abuses of new technologies; and
- How to ensure participation of the full range of non-governmental stakeholders in the implementation and review of the GCM, including migrants themselves.

*November 2018*