



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 June 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 14 June 2019 from H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh and H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain, co-facilitators for the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations to determine the modalities and organizational aspects of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), sharing the first revised draft of the resolution titled “Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums”.

The second informal intergovernmental consultation on this draft will take place on Thursday, 20 June 2019, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, from 10:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. F. Espinosa Garcés'.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF SPAIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 14 June 2019

Excellency,

We write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators to the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations to determine the precise modalities and organizational aspects of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and articulate how the contributions of the regional review and other relevant process will inform the Forums, as means to strengthen the overall effectiveness and the consistency of the follow-up and review outlined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Paragraph-49 of the same Compact further envisioned IMRF as a global platform where Member States would be able to review its implementation progress and guide the direction of the United Nation's work.

As announced earlier, we are pleased to forward here with the first revised draft of the resolution titled "**Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums**" for your kind consideration (copy enclosed). The informal inter-governmental consultation on this draft will be taking place on next Thursday, 20 June 2019 at the Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters from 10:15 am – 01:00 pm and 03:15 pm to 06:00 pm.

We look forward to continuing working closely with you to ensure constructive intergovernmental negotiations and positive outcome, while we remain at your disposal for any clarification on the process.

Ambassador H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen  
(Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the  
United Nations in New York)

Ambassador H.E. Mr. Agustin Santos Maraver  
(Permanent Representative of Spain to the United  
Nations in New York)

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All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

**Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums**

*The General Assembly,*

PP1. *Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>2</sup>, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>3</sup>,

PP2. *Recalling also* its resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018, also known as the Marrakesh Declaration, by which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in Marrakech on 10 and 11 December 2018,

PP3. *Reaffirming* that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Global Compact) presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework, fostering international cooperation among all relevant actors on migration, acknowledging that no State can address migration alone, and upholding the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law (based on 73/195, para 7),

PP4. *Reaffirming also* that the Global Compact is based on the following set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles; people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach, (based on 73/195, para 15)

PP5. *Recalling* that the International Migration Review Forum (the forum) shall serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, (based on 73/195, para 49)

**Venue, time and duration**

1. *Decides that* the forum:

- (a) Shall be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and chaired by the President of the General Assembly;
- (b) Shall take place during the first semester of the year 2022, and thereafter every four years at the United Nations Headquarters in New York;

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 71/1.

(c) shall last for three days;

### **Participation**

2. *Also decides* that the forum shall be open for participation by all States Members of the United Nations and all members of specialized agencies that have observer status with the UN General Assembly; (based on 71/280, op3)

3. *Invites* Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level; (70/290, op2)

4. *Reiterates* the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders in the forum and invites non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as all relevant stakeholders accredited to the preparatory process of the intergovernmental negotiations of the Global Compact, or accredited to participate in the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the forum (based on 71/280, op6, 6a);

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, academic, scientific and knowledge-based institutions, the private sector, trade unions, faith-based, migrant and youth organizations, diaspora communities and local authorities, who may attend and participate in the forum, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and with due regard to the meaningful participation of women and to submit to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis, no later than three months before the forum<sup>4</sup>; (based on 71/280, para 6c, 8)

6. *Invites* national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles<sup>5</sup> to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the forum and its preparations, including the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings described in paragraph 16 below, and invites the institutions, as well as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and regional human rights institution networks, to organize global and regional consultations and to contribute views to its preparations; (based on 71/280, op9)

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<sup>4</sup> The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 48/134, annex.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the participation all relevant special procedures mandate holders and treaty bodies, in accordance with their respective mandate in the forum; (based on: 71/280, op12)

8. *Encourages* Member States to ensure diverse delegations, as appropriate. These may include parliamentarians, representatives from National Human Rights Institutions and sub-national, including local, actors in their national delegations for the forum;

### **Preparations**

9. *Requests* the UN Network on Migration (network) to assist, as needed, in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact;

10. *Invites* the United Nations regional economic commissions, in accordance with their respective mandates and within existing resources, with support of the network, to bring together relevant sub-regional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including regional consultative processes on migration, to review the implementation of the Global Compact and to contribute to the work of the forum, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, as appropriate; (based on 67/290, para 13, 73/195, para 50)

11. *Invites* the Global Forum on Migration and Development to provide a space for informal exchanges on the implementation of the Global Compact, and report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the forum; (73/195, para 51)

12. *Invites* other State-led initiatives on international migration, such as the IOM International Dialogue on Migration, regional consultative processes on migration and others to contribute to the forum by providing relevant data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to the implementation of the Global Compact; (73/195, para 52)

13. *Requests* the network, in preparation for the forum, to collect all inputs received from national, regional and global levels and to develop, as part of the global knowledge platform, a dedicated website featuring inputs submitted by Member States and other relevant stakeholders to the forum;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when reporting to the General Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Global Compact, drawing on the network, to also include a concise, evidence-based analysis, identifying opportunities and challenges, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations, including funding considerations, to effectively implement the Global Compact, as well as to provide guidance for the envisaged policy debate during the third day of the forum as part of the biennial report preceding each forum and to make the report available at least six weeks ahead of the forum;

15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for each forum (70/290, op5);

16. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize and to preside over one day of informal interactive multi stakeholder hearings prior to each forum with representatives of nongovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, parliaments, diasporas, migrants, migrant organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, and also requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings prior to each forum; (based on 71/280, op30, 67/219, op11);

17. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Start-Up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Migration MPTF), for initial financing to realize project-oriented solutions that support efforts of Member States to implement the Global Compact, and encourages Member States, the United Nations, international financial institutions and other stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic foundations, to consider providing voluntary financial contributions to the Migration MPTF; (source: Terms of Reference of the migration MPTF, see also 73/195 para 43b)

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the participation of developing countries, the least developed countries, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the work of the forum, and in this regard invites Member States, financial institutions and other organizations to contribute to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (based on 67/290, op24);

## **Organisation**

19. *Decides* that:

(a) Each edition of the forum shall consist of a plenary, four parallel interactive multi-stakeholder roundtables during the first two days and, on the third day, in parallel to the plenary, a session at which the technical summaries of the roundtables will be presented, followed by a policy debate;

(b) The plenary shall be divided into an opening session, a general debate and a closing session;

(c) The opening session of the plenary shall feature statements from the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, in his/her capacity as the Coordinator of the network, one representative from the migrant community, and one from civil society;

(d) In the general debate of the plenary, Member States, the observer States, and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly shall deliver their statements. The list of speakers will be established in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practices of the Assembly; (based 70/290, op 1d)

20. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to deliver remarks during the closing session at the end of the third day, which will include a summary of the plenary debate;

21. *Encourages* Member States to present the result of their reviews of progress in implementing the Global Compact, drawing on contributions from all relevant stakeholders, on a voluntary basis, as a part of their national statements;

22. *Decides* that:

(a) During the first two days of the forum, in parallel to the plenary, four consecutive interactive roundtables will offer space for discussion covering all 23 objectives of the Global Compact with the aim of reviewing the implementation progress made at all levels, bearing in mind that the Global Compact is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles;

(b) All 23 objectives of the Global Compact shall be covered in the following way:

(i) Thematic cluster-I: Drivers of migration, pre-departure decision making and increasing predictability and certainty of migration;

(ii) Thematic cluster-II: Migration movements - the journey, arrival, return and reintegration of migrants;

(iii) Thematic cluster-III: Inclusion and social cohesion;

(iv) Thematic cluster-IV: Impacts of migration in countries of origin, transit and destination, and the need for international cooperation;

(c) Each interactive, multi-stakeholder roundtable will be co-chaired by two Member State representatives, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, with due regard for geographical and gender balance, in consultation with regional groups (based on 67/219, op 3(d));

(d) Adequate space should be reserved during each roundtable for participation of non-governmental stakeholders and representatives of regional processes, platforms and organizations;

(e) Each roundtable shall result in a technical summary prepared by the co-chairs;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with input from the network, to prepare a background note for each roundtable to be circulated at least six weeks prior to the forum;

24. *Decides* that:

(a) On the morning of the third day, in a session parallel to the plenary, the co-chairs will present the technical summaries;

(b) On the afternoon of the third day, in a session parallel to the plenary, the Director General of the IOM, in his/her capacity as coordinator of the network, will be invited to facilitate a policy debate focusing on identifying challenges to implementation progress, highlighting the intrinsic links between the Global Compact and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and guiding both the forum and the United Nations system on contemporary, evolving or frontier issues related to migration, in connection with those issues highlighted by the Secretary-General in his report;

(c) The roundtables, the parallel session and the policy debate shall be interactive, evidence based, and action oriented in nature, with participation of all relevant stakeholders;

(d) The technical summaries of the four roundtables, as well as the summary of the policy debate, will be distributed within 10 working days following the conclusion of each forum by the President of the General Assembly;

#### **Outcome**

25. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators ahead of each edition of the forum to conduct open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiations with all Member States, beginning immediately after the forum, with a view to agreeing on an outcome document for each forum;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General, drawing on the network, to provide secretariat support to the co-facilitators;

27. *Decides* that:

(a) The intergovernmental negotiations shall be concluded no later than two months after each edition of the forum in order to elaborate a brief and concise inter-governmentally agreed Progress Declaration which may be taken into consideration by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) Inputs received ahead of the forum from all levels and, in particular, the biennial report of the Secretary-General preceding each forum, as well as summaries from the roundtables and the policy debate, shall serve as the basis for the elaboration of the Progress Declaration;

(c) The Progress Declaration shall be brief, concise, evidence based and action oriented and shall contain:

(i) An evaluation of the overall progress made with respect to the implementation of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact at all levels;



(ii) An identification of the key challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the Global Compact, and the scope for further international cooperation on international migration;

(iii) Recommendations from the policy debate on the implementation of the Global Compact, including funding, and its links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as possible guidance for the United Nations System to strengthen its efforts in improving the system-wide effectiveness and coherence and in supporting Member States in implementing Global Compact;

(d) The summaries of the plenary meetings, the interactive roundtables and the policy debate shall be annexed to the Progress Declaration.