



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 June 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 21 June 2019 from H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh and H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver, Permanent Representatives 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 second revised draft resolution “Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forum”.

The third informal inter-governmental consultation on this draft will take place on Wednesday, 26 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.

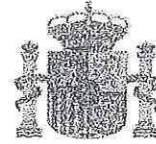
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. F. Espinosa', written in a cursive style.

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

Revised

New York, 21 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 enclose the second revised draft of the resolution titled **"Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums"** for your kind consideration.

The informal inter-governmental consultation on this draft will be taking place on next **Wednesday, 26 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.**

So far, our consultations have been very constructive, and we look forward to finalizing the text shortly. We remain at your disposal for any clarification.

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)

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* its resolution 71/1 of 19 September 2016, entitled “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”, and its resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018, by which it endorsed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, also known as the Marrakesh Compact on Migration, (based on 72/244, pp1)

PP2. *Recalling also* 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>, and the Declaration of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development<sup>3</sup>,

PP3. *Recalling further* 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* 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. *Reaffirming also* that the Global Compact will be implemented through a revitalized global partnership, in a spirit of solidarity, building on existing mechanisms, platforms and frameworks to address migration in all its dimensions, (based on 73/195, para 42)

PP6. *Recalling* paragraph 49 of resolution 73/195 on the establishment of the International Migration Review Forum (the forum), which 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, and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, (based on 73/195, para 49)

**Venue, time and duration**

1. *Decides* that the forum:

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 68/4

(a) Shall be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and be 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;

(c) Shall last for three days;

(d) Shall be held at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government; (71/280, op 1b)

### **Participation**

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

3. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly to participate as observers in the forum; (based on 71/280, op4)

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 stakeholders that were accredited to the preparatory process of the intergovernmental consultations of the Global Compact or that were accredited to participate in the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and *encourages* them 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 other relevant stakeholders, who may attend and participate in each forum, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, 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)

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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.

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, including the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings described in paragraph 15 below, and invites the institutions, as well as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and regional human rights institution networks, to submit inputs prior to the forum; (based on 71/280, op9)

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

8. *Encourages* Member States to ensure, as appropriate, that the composition of their national delegations is varied and representative, reflecting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach;

### **Preparations**

9. *Requests* the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration (the network), to assist, as needed, in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact;

10. *Invites* relevant sub-regional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions and regional consultative processes on migration, to review the implementation of the Global Compact, within their respective regions, and to contribute to the work of the forum, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

11. *Invites also* the Global Forum on Migration and Development, including its business and mayoral mechanisms, 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 further* 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 local, 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;

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

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as part of the biennial report preceding each forum, drawing on the network, to provide guidance for the envisaged policy debate during the third day of the forum, and to make the report available at least twelve weeks ahead of the forum;

15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize and to preside over one day of informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings one day prior to each forum with all relevant stakeholders, as listed in paragraphs 4 to 7, and also requests the President of the General Assembly to invite the representative of civil society to present a summary of the hearings during the opening session of the plenary; (based on 71/280, op30, 67/219, op11);

16. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Start-Up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as part of the capacity building mechanism;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, including 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 make financial contributions; (based on 67/290, op24)

#### **Organisation**

18. *Decides* that:

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

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

19. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to deliver remarks during the closing session on the third day;

20. *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;

21. *Decides* that:

(a) The four interactive roundtables will offer space for discussion covering all 23 objectives of the Global Compact with the aim of reviewing the progress made in its implementation 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) Roundtable one: Drivers of migration, pre-departure decision making and increasing certainty and predictability of migration procedures<sup>6</sup>;

(ii) Roundtable two: Migration movements – the journey, arrival, return and reintegration of migrants<sup>7</sup>;

(iii) Roundtable three: Inclusion of migrants and social cohesion<sup>8</sup>;

(iv) Roundtable four: Impacts of migration in countries of origin, transit and destination, and the need for international cooperation<sup>9</sup>;

(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 local authorities, as well as of regional processes, platforms and organizations; (based on 70/290, op1(h))

(e) Each roundtable may include a keynote speaker to guide the interactive debate;

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

22. *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;

23. *Decides* that:

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<sup>6</sup> Roundtable I: Indicative list of objectives to be included; 2,5,6,12,18

<sup>7</sup> Roundtable II: Indicative list of objectives to be included; 4, 8,9, 10, 11, 13, 21

<sup>8</sup> Roundtable III: Indicative list of objectives to be included; 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22

<sup>9</sup> Roundtable IV: Indicative list of objectives to be included; 1, 3, 7, 17, 23

- (a) On the morning of the third day, in the session parallel to the plenary, the co-chairs of the roundtables will present the technical summaries;
- (b) On the afternoon of the third day, in the session parallel to the plenary, the Director General of the IOM, as Coordinator of the network, will be invited to facilitate a policy debate focusing on challenges in the implementation of the Global Compact, highlighting its intrinsic links with the 2030 Agenda 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 in the Secretary-General's report;
- (c) All sessions parallel to the plenary shall be interactive, evidence based, and action oriented in nature, with participation of all relevant stakeholders;
- (d) The summaries of the plenary and the parallel sessions shall be distributed by the President of the General Assembly within 10 working days following the conclusion of each forum;

#### **Outcome**

- 24. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators ahead of each forum to conduct open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental consultations with a view to agreeing on the Progress Declaration;
- 25. *Requests* the Secretary-General, drawing on the network, to provide secretariat support to the co-facilitators;
- 26. *Decides* that:
  - (a) The intergovernmental consultations shall be concluded no later than two months after each forum;
  - (b) All inputs to the forum along with the reports of the Secretary-General as well as the summaries of the plenary and the parallel sessions shall serve as the basis for the elaboration of the Progress Declaration;
  - (c) The Progress Declaration shall be 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 the Global Compact;

(d) The summaries of the plenary and the parallel sessions shall be annexed to the Progress Declaration;

(e) The Progress Declaration shall be adopted by the General Assembly;

27. *Decides also* to review, after the second forum, its format and organizational aspects, unless otherwise agreed; (based on para 29, 67/290)