



QUNO

Quaker United Nations Office

Migration Justice: Delivering on the promise of the Global Compact for Migration

Paper 2: Why does the International Migration Review Forum matter for migration justice?

Our vision of migration justice is grounded in human rights and puts the dignity of migrants at the centre. The Global Compact for Migration (GCM or Compact) contains a promise to take a people centred and human rights based approach to migration policy and to work together towards this. The 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) is the first time all States can reflect together on their progress on this promise and on continuing and new challenges.

Why does the Global Compact for Migration matter for migration justice?

The GCM's guiding principles, starting with a commitment to people centred global migration governance, embed a human rights based approach to the shared commitments States have made in the Compact. The GCM brings together practical migration governance actions with a strong foundation in binding international human rights law. As the most comprehensive multilateral agreement on governance of migration the GCM is an important framework to guide governments' policies and practices. It can also be a useful tool for engaging with governments to address violations of the human rights of migrants.

In the GCM States encourage the development of national implementation plans and regular inclusive reviews of progress at a national level. This should help translate the promise of the GCM to the national level and provide an opportunity to develop or strengthen human rights based approaches. These activities should enable participatory processes that draw on the expertise and experience of migrants, NGOs and other stakeholders.

What role can the IMRF play in advocacy for migration justice?

The IMRF is one of the ways migrants, NGOs and other stakeholders can remind States that the adoption of the GCM was a beginning not an end. It can contribute to:

- Demonstrating the relevance of the GCM (including in the wake of COVID-19)
- Emphasizing the importance of a human rights based approach to migration governance
- Incentivizing implementation of the Compact
- Contributing to increasing participatory processes at national, regional and global levels
- Deepening global dialogue on migration whilst emphasizing a focus on migrants' experiences
- Setting the agenda and framing collective action on pressing issues of concern



A Progress Declaration will be negotiated and then adopted at the IMRF, this could set the agenda for global migration governance, for example by recommitting to the guiding principles and objectives of the GCM, identifying priorities and articulating collective action. The IMRF can be used to encourage specific concrete commitments or pledges from States and others stakeholders to enable it to have an impact that extends beyond the four days of discussion in New York.

How can migrants, NGOs and other stakeholders engage with the IMRF in their work towards migration justice?


A separate briefing note contains entry points and ideas, but a good starting point is to identify the links between your priorities and the GCM (for example, which guiding principles, objectives, and actions relate to your work) and then consider what you want to achieve from engagement with the IMRF. Aims of engaging could include:

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- drawing attention to specific issues nationally, regionally or globally
 - sharing good practice from a project that you are involved with or would like to see scaled up
 - highlighting continuing rights violations in one or more countries
 - opening dialogue with government(s) for advocacy or partnership
 - securing commitment from government(s) to develop a national implementation plan
 - gaining knowledge from what is happening in various countries or regions
 - learning from migrants, NGOs and other stakeholders in various countries or regions
 - incorporating key messages into the progress declaration
 - ensuring migrant representation
 - defining nationally determined indicators for guiding principles, actions, or objectives
 - gaining measurable commitments from government(s) through pledging
 - building a coalition on a specific topic, including with the aim of making joint pledges





What does QUNO hope the IMRF will do?

- Set the tone and shape an ambitious global agenda for using the GCM to reduce the human cost of migration governance, a human cost that is currently far too high.
- Incentivize human rights-based national implementation of the GCM in a sustainable way.
- Expand space for migrants in policy development and review, including by centring migrants and making a compelling case for their participation at all levels.



Members of the human family have always migrated and will always migrate. The governance of migration is complex and multifaceted, within a broad range of pressing issues our substantive priorities are:

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- Guaranteeing a human rights based approach to post-COVID migration governance and upholding the rights of migrants in future pandemic preparedness
 - Ending lethal disregard for migrants
 - Dismantling systemic racism in migration governance
 - Ensuring protection including in the context of mixed migration