



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

Paper 1: What is the International Migration Review Forum?¹

General Overview

The International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) was created by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).² It is a Member State forum, with the participation of stakeholders, to discuss implementation of the GCM and guide the work of the United Nations on migration. It will 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.

Key Facts of the IMRF

- The IMRF will take place every four years starting in 2022. The first IMRF is expected to take place in May 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York for four days.
- The IMRF will be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and be chaired by the President of the General Assembly.
- The IMRF will be held at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government.
- Representatives of non-governmental organizations, academic, scientific and knowledge-based institutions, the private sector, trade unions, faith-based, migrant and youth organizations, diaspora communities, national human rights institutions and other relevant stakeholders may attend and participate in each forum.
- The President of the General Assembly will organize and preside over a one-day informal interactive multistakeholder hearing prior to the start of the IMRF. A rapporteur from civil society will be selected to give a summary of this hearing at the opening segment of the IMRF.

The IMRF and the United Nations Network on Migration

The United Nations Network on Migration (the Network) is responsible for effective and coherent support in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, and will promote the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in line with the GCM vision and guiding principles. The Network acts as the Secretariat for the IMRF in partnership with the President of the General Assembly and their corresponding Office.

Initial Entry-Points for Civil Society to use the IMRF for Steps Towards Migration Justice

- Engagement in national consultations in the preparation of national reports and positions
- Engagement in consultation processes to inform background papers to shape the discussions at the IMRF
- Contribution of examples of good practice to be included by the Network on the Migration Hub
- Participation in the multistakeholder hearing prior to the start of the IMRF
- Participation in the IMRF, including by organizing side events and briefings and as keynote speakers
- Making suggestions for and participating in international and regional dialogues in advance of the IMRF on various topics

¹ This is the first paper of a series of short briefing notes to support steps towards migration justice through delivering on the promise of people-centred migration governance contained in the GCM.

² Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, A/RES/73/195, para. 49.

Structure of the IMRF

The programme of the forum will consist of:

- Four interactive multi-stakeholder roundtables
- A policy debate
- Two days of plenary discussion
- Adoption of an intergovernmentally agreed Progress Declaration in the closing session

Four Multistakeholder Roundtables

- The four round tables 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.
- Each round table will be co-chaired by two Member State representatives, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly. Each round table will have the possibility of a key note speaker to guide the debate.
- The Network secretariat will prepare background notes for the roundtables and make these available before the IMRF. Consultations with stakeholders will be held in advance.

Policy Debate

- The policy debate will be chaired by the Network Coordinator and will focus on challenges in the implementation of the Global Compact, including links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the capacity-building mechanism and contemporary and emerging issues related to migration.
- The policy debate will also consider possible guidance for the United Nations system to strengthen its efforts in improving system-wide effectiveness and coherence and in supporting Member States in implementing the Global Compact.

Plenary Discussion

- The plenary discussion will be divided into an opening segment, a general debate and a closing segment.
- The opening segment of the plenary shall feature statements from the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the IOM, one representative from the migrant community, and a representative from civil society.
- Member States are encouraged to present the results of their reviews of progress in implementing the Global Compact, on a voluntary basis and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, as part of their national statements.

Adoption of a Progress Declaration May Include:

- An evaluation of the overall progress made with respect to the implementation of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact at all levels;
- An identification of the key challenges, opportunities and emerging issues related to the implementation of the Global Compact, and the scope for further international cooperation on international migration;
- Recommendations on the implementation of the Global Compact.

After the Closing of the First Edition of the IMRF

- The summaries of the plenary, round tables and the policy debate will be distributed by the President of the General Assembly within 10 working days following the conclusion of each forum.