

### Statement by Jill Helke at GFMD 22 March

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, in May 2018 gave IOM the task of coordinating the UN Network on Migration and serving as its secretariat. This has been welcomed by the Member States in the text of the Global Compact – paragraph 45.

In this new role, IOM will coordinate the UN system's support to Member States for Global Compact implementation, follow-up and review in a spirit of partnership and cooperation with its fellow UN agencies and other non-UN partners such as civil society, cities and municipalities, the private sector, unions, migrant and diaspora organizations, academia and migrants themselves.

The focus of whole the UN Development system is on support to states in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As the DDG said at the end of her statement yesterday: GCM implementation efforts **must** build on, support and magnify measures to implement the 2030 agenda, and in the case of the members of the UN Network on Migration, our focus will be particularly on those aspects of the SDGs related to migration, which are many, and have been discussed in detail at previous GFMD sessions. This link with and support to the SDGs is important, because the 2030 Agenda was adopted by ALL states, including those which dissociated themselves from the GCM.

The Network members are aware it needs to be flexible in the way it provides support, both to states and other actors on GCM-related matters, offering approaches tailored to the national, sub regional and regional settings, and in full alignment with the UN Development System.

Details on the Network to date:

The Network, which consists of 38 UN entities has:

- held a framing meeting – in October last year
- formed an Executive Committee as the principal decision-making body, to help guide the priority areas of the work for the Network, consisting of 8 members (referred to in the SG's decision as Core Group, but since renamed EC)
  1. IOM
  2. ILO
  3. OHCHR
  4. UNDESA
  5. UNDP
  6. UNHCR
  7. UNICEF
  8. UNODC
- The Network as a whole agreed on its ToRs which highlight the key objective is to ensure UN system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM.

In developing the ToRs, the Network sought to prioritize

  - inclusivity, including for non-UN stakeholders;
  - agility, with a focus on results;

- a bottom-up approach with needs identified at the country-level,
  - reinforcing ongoing reforms; efficiency, focusing on joint programming and not duplicating ongoing efforts that are already effective at delivering results; and
  - a commitment to constantly reviewing – and refining – how we work.
- As Coordinator of the Network, the IOM DG wrote a letter earlier this month, co-signed by all his Executive Committee Colleagues, to all Resident Coordinators, sent through the Office of the DSG, to update them on the UN Network, the GCM, and the potential implications for UN work at country level.

One of the concluding paragraphs of the letter is: *Recognizing the contribution of migration to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the GCM holds much promise for our common work on migration. This includes, but is not limited to, improving migration data, strengthening international cooperation, and preparing national implementation plans underpinned by a collective commitment to international law, including human rights and labour standards.*

- The ToRs of the Network state explicitly that *at regional and country level, the Network will provide support through the relevant UN regional body or the Resident Coordinator and will, where applicable, be anchored in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks such as UNDAFs to ensure strong national ownership.*
- As many of you will know, the UN is currently going through an exercise of updating UNDAFs to reflect the new instructions and processes resulting from UN Reform, and this is providing UN country teams, in discussion with host governments, to insert appropriate references to migration and, where applicable, the GCM.
- In many countries, there are already migration working groups or equivalent mechanisms within UN CT structures. In many cases these have IOM as chair or co-chair, and these or other relevant results teams and focus groups can encourage and support the discussions on national GCM implementation plans, and how the UNCT and Network members can most effectively bolster those efforts, and link them with sub-regional and regional levels, where relevant.
- A number of elements will be key:
  1. All of government and all of society approaches: the process leading to the GCM provided a new standard for inclusivity of all the stakeholders relevant to migration issues, and resulted in the very explicit recognition of the importance of local- or subnational-level governments to good migration management. Those members of the Network present in countries can help in ensuring ongoing inclusive consultations as national GCM implementation plans are developed and monitored.
  2. Promoting cooperation and information exchange among different regional entities and across regions.
  3. Support to capacity building, including guidance and tools.
  4. Resources.
- These last two have been occupying both the secretariat and the Executive Committee in recent months, as we have been working on the ToRs of and governance arrangements for the startup fund, mentioned in paragraph 43 of the GCM as part of the Capacity Building Mechanism. As part of

this, we have been working to ensure that all elements of the GCM – all 23 objectives – will receive appropriate support. The Fund is due to be publicly launched soon, probably early next month.

- Similarly, we have been working on a work plan that will ensure attention to issues covering the 360 degree view of migration as in the GCM, looking at short term, medium term and long term issues, and at covering cross-cutting, thematically-clustered and very specific issues.
- Many Network members have many forms of capacity building support to offer, including training, guidance and tools developed jointly in various combinations over the years. Here is one example from IOM.
- **The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI)** is a tool which has been developed by IOM in collaboration with the Economist Intelligence Unit and in consultation with IOM Member States. It is based on a set of around 90 indicators building on 6 policy domains considered to be the essential elements to support planned and well managed migration.<sup>1</sup> These domains are derived from the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) adopted by the IOM Council in 2015 to support orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people through planned and well-managed migration policies and are also those accepted as the basis of the questions for indicator 10.7.2.<sup>2</sup> The main purpose of MGI is to help governments, upon request, take stock of the migration policies and strategies they have in place, to identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development.
- The MGI is not strictly speaking a GCM tool, but rather a tool that countries can use to track progress on national and international commitments, including SDGs and GCM. The framework offers the possibility to governments to kick start the GCM process in a streamlined way as it already includes indicators relevant to all 23 GCM objectives, and it covers all migration-related SDGs. This can help ensure coherence between all streams of work in support of MS to achieve their commitments on the GCM and the SDGs.
- MGI assessments have so far been done in 50 countries, and the results can be a valuable resource for UNCTs and host governments in inserting relevant references and priorities into UNDAFs and identifying the relevant areas of support by different agencies, including capacity building.
  - UNCTs or Network members are involved in the process and/or the consultations,
  - In some cases, MGI results are being considered for use in national GCM implementation plans, new national development plans, migration policy strategies, or diaspora policies.
  - In some cases, MGI results have been presented in coordination meetings on VNRs for the HLPF.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information see: IOM council, 106th Session (2015) Migration Governance Framework, 04 November 2015, C/106/40 (2015), available at: <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/106/c-106-40-Migration-Governance-Framework.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> For information on using the Migration Governance Framework as a tool in support of GCM implementation, please see “Capacity building for coherent migration policy and comprehensive migration management”

Thus at the national level, the MGI can:

- **Help countries establish a national baseline for the implementation of the GCM:** the MGI allows countries to take stock of the key migration-related policies/strategies and establish a baseline on the policy implications behind the 23 GCM objectives.
- **Help countries develop a roadmap for GCM implementation by identifying clear policy priorities and concrete actions that can be taken towards the achievement of the 23 objectives:** through an interministerial consultation, the MGI sparks a dialogue between the government agencies and other stakeholders on national priorities related to migration governance. This exercise can also help clarify how the gaps identified through the MGI may negatively impact their strategic priorities and hinder progress toward the achievement of GCM objectives.
- **Help countries track progress and report towards the achievement of their GCM commitments:** By conducting follow-up assessments every two years, governments can track progress towards the achievement of GCM objectives.

And the Network members can channel and focus their support to states throughout the process, as appropriate.

Finally, I have not forgotten the other two elements of the CBM: knowledge platform and connection hub, but work on these is still at preliminary stage.

In conclusion, IOM will be providing support to states through its own policy and programmatic work as well as in its capacity of Coordinator and secretariat of the UN Network on Migration. It may not always be possible to draw a clear line between these IOM roles, but we are determined that they be - at all times - mutually reinforcing and supportive of UN efforts in support to Member states in the achievement or implementation of the SDGs and GCM.