



## Concept note

### Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting

***2017 Regional and Global processes toward the States' Stocktaking Conference***

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico,

Saturday and Sunday 2– 3 December 2017

#### Context

In just the past two years, all 193 UN Member States unanimously adopted back-to-back commitments to “Safe, Orderly and Regular” Migration: first in the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) of 2015, and then in the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#) at the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. Even more broadly, both the 2030 Agenda and the New York Declaration underscore the full range of rights that apply to migrants regardless of status, and the need for concrete implementation of those rights. Further, in the New York Declaration, states specifically committed to a two-year, states-led but multi-stakeholder process to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) to be adopted at an intergovernmental conference in 2018. States further committed to develop a Global Compact on Refugees on a similar timeline but in a separate process led by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

#### The process to develop the Migration Compact

States-led but not states-only, the process to develop the GCM is overseen by two state co-facilitators, Mexico and Switzerland, working closely with the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA), and the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for International Migration (SRSG), Ms. Louise Arbour. The [Modalities Resolution A/71/L.58](#) emphasizes that it should be an open and inclusive process, and stresses the importance of considering input from all relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

In that direction, the process of drafting the GCM is structured as follows:

- Phase I – Consultations: April to November 2017
- Phase 2 – Stocktaking: November 2017 to January 2018
- Phase 3 – Intergovernmental negotiations: February to July 2018



This project is funded by the  
European Union

Supported by  
the International  
Organization for  
Migration



The purpose of the **Consultations** phase has been to collect input for the preparation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The government-led **Stocktaking** Conference, taking place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico from 4 – 6 of December 2017, will take stock of inputs received and will present input from relevant processes. The outcomes of this conference, together with all input received during the consultations phase and the report to be drafted by the SRSB, will provide the basis for a “*zero-draft document*” of the GCM, which will be released by the co-facilitators by February 2018 as the basis for the **Intergovernmental negotiations** phase.

By the end of 2017, the Consultations of Phase 1 will have encompassed:

- 6 global [Thematic Consultations](#) organized by the PGA, drawing upon the expertise of the SRSB and members of the Global Migration Group on: human rights of all migrants; addressing drivers of migration; international cooperation and governance of migration; contributions of migrants and diasporas; smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery; and irregular migration, decent work and regular pathways.
- 4 full regional consultations organised by 4 of the UN Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), and an additional meeting by the Economic Commission of Europe (ECE) that will review the GCM.
- Two multi-stakeholder hearings [organized by the PGA](#)
- [Dozens of national consultations organized by national actors](#)
- Civil society consultations, at both regional and global levels *[see the next section]*
- Other inputs from civil society and other actors

### **Civil society consultations and organising**

Civil society has been invited and involved in many of the different consultation meetings. However, with the exception of processes that civil society itself has organized, the number and scope of participation by civil society was limited, in particular with respect to opportunities to speak within the processes. Moreover, due to the fast-paced process of the consultation phase, many in civil society did not have the capacity to react within the required registration deadlines, especially NGOs active at local, national and regional levels.

For that reason, between June and October 2017, a number of civil society networks and organizations self-coordinated a wide range of regional and global processes that convened over 500 different civil society actors around the world specifically to discuss and provide input into the overall process of development of the GCM. Among these civil society processes:

- **7 regional civil society processes.** With funding from the Australian, Swiss and UAE Governments, and the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), civil society organised and led 7 [regional civil society consultations](#) (RCSCs) between August and November 2017, in:
  - **Africa**, anchored by Pan-African Network in Defense of Migrants Rights (PANiDMR) and MADE-Afrique
  - **Asia**, anchored by [Migrant Forum in Asia](#) (MFA)
  - **Europe**, anchored by [Migration and Development Civil Society Network](#) (MADE) and [Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants](#) (PICUM)

- **Latin America**, anchored by Bloque Latinamericano (Latin American Block), technical focal point by [Asylum Access Ecuador](#)
- **The Middle East/North Africa** (MENA), anchored by [Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants](#) (CCRM)
- **North America**, anchored by [AFL-CIO](#), [Alianza Americas](#), [National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights](#), [Solidarity Center](#)
- **The Pacific**, anchored by [The Pacific Islands Association of NGOs \(PIANGO\)](#), [Fiji Citizens Constitutional Forum \(CCF\)](#), in partnership with [Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Center \(SAPMiC\)](#) at Sydney University, the [Diplomacy Training Program](#) (DTP) at University of NSW, and [Migrant Forum Asia](#) (MFA)
- **Global civil society processes:** Following the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants, a range of global civil society processes put their focus on ensuring implementation of the commitments that the states had adopted in the New York Declaration, including the commitments to develop the Compact on Refugees and Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Among the most prominent of these global civil society processes:
  - Beginning in May 2016, civil society organised itself towards the Summit on Refugees and Migrants through the [Action Committee](#) facilitated by ICMC-MADE (Migration and Development Civil Society Programme), co-convened with the NGO Committee on Migration/New York and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA). With strong Action Committee work and presence in New York, refugee protection and migrant rights civil society actors advocated consistently and directly, both individually and collectively with states and the co-facilitators in the negotiation phase towards the Summit's final New York Declaration. Civil society's response to the New York Declaration, a joint statement and scorecard entitled "[Act Now](#)", was signed by over 100 civil society organisations and circulated widely.
  - The [Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts](#) brings together 29 organizations in a civil society-led but multi-stakeholder effort to draft and finalize a set of goals, targets and time-lines for rights-based protection and assistance to children in contexts of migration across six key priorities: non-discrimination, best interests of the child, child protection, child immigration detention, access to services, and sustainable solutions. Coordinated by Terre des Hommes and Save the Children, the Initiative convened some 300 civil society actors, including 20 youth delegates, in a major two-day conference on Children on the Move, in Berlin in June 2017.
  - The [Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration Development](#) brought together over 400 civil society representatives from around the world to Bangladesh in December 2016 and Germany in late June and July of 2017, focussed specifically on elements, recommendations and advocacy toward the GCM. Among the civil society sectors and groups consistently active in the GFMD are migrant and diaspora associations, NGOs focused on women in migration, youth and youth organizations, and trade unions and worker associations. Organized by ICMC MADE working closely with an International Steering Committee (ISC) of civil society for the GFMD, the Civil Society Days presented their [principal recommendations](#) each year to states at the opening of the government programme of the GFMD.

- One of the chief civil society recommendations to come out of the GFMD Civil Society Days regarding the GCM was to develop a statement expressing common civil society priorities for the GCM. A Core Group of the ISC<sup>1</sup> took this recommendation forward between late August and early October, resulting in the document [Now and How: TEN ACTS for the Global Compact](#) that is described in Annex 2 of this document, and that is open for global sign-on [here](#).
- Organized by the civil society coalition ICVA (the International Council of Voluntary Agencies), the annual [UNHCR-NGO Consultations](#) in Geneva in June 2017 brought more than 400 further civil society actors from around the world to work on development of the Global Compact on Refugees. A set of recommendations and good practices, many cutting across both Compacts, was published in a comprehensive Report: *CRRF – Putting the Pieces Together* that was presented to states as well as UNHCR and civil society actors in October. Also organized by the ICVA, the annual **IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations** that were held in Nairobi in September 2017 brought around 50 humanitarian international NGOs as well as local civil society groups to look at the Global Compact on Refugees as well as complementarity with the Global Compact on Migration.
- An [informal group of NGO's](#) formed and has met in Geneva regularly on the GCM and to advocate for a human rights-based response to migration at the UN level. Centering around 10 NGO members, the group is led by the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO), and recently published a related paper entitled: [A Human Rights Based Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#).
- A new **“Informal” group** of academics and a number of representatives of UN agencies, states and NGOs has been convened by the Open Society Foundations for multi-stakeholder reflection to deepen common understandings of the GCM process and advance positive policy outcomes through all three phases of the GCM development process.

## Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy meeting

The *Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy meeting: 2017 Regional and Global processes toward the States' Stocktaking Conference* will take place on the 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. It is being organized by the ICMC-MADE Coordinating Office, working closely with members of the Action Committee—in particular those focused on migrants and migration, in further consultation with the ISC and the Inter-Regional Committee comprising the focal points of the regional civil society consultations. It is organized with support from the European Union, and the International Organization for Migration.

### Focus and objectives

This gathering provides a space for civil society to meet together on priority messages to bring into the government-led Stocktaking Conference taking place on 4-6 December, to strategize for the

---

<sup>1</sup> The Core Group members that were active in the drafting of the *Now + How: 10 Acts for the Global Compact* were: Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT), Caritas Internationalis, Global Coalition on Migration, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), NGO Committee on Migration, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), Terre des Hommes, and the GFMD Civil Society Chairs for 2017 Wies Maas, 2016 Colin Rajah and 2015 Ignacio Packer.

negotiations phase that begins in February 2018 and to engage in direct conversations with governments.

On **Day 1**, the meeting will include an update on the GCM process, as well as of activities of civil society in the consultation phase both in regional and in global processes (see above). It will then center strategic discussion and advocacy planning on each of the [10 Acts](#).

**Day 2** will be dedicated to conversations with governments on specific themes, facilitating civil society to develop an advocacy road map going into the negotiations.

***Day 1 – Civil Society ‘only’***

- Opening plenary providing an overview of the GCM process and a ‘stocktaking’ of civil society activities at the global and regional level during the Consultation Phase.
- 10 afternoon group sessions (5+5) on each of the ten themes detailed in the Now and How: TEN ACTS for the Global Compact.
- Closing plenary to bring together the day of civil society discussion with a view to preparing for the tables with governments the next day on the same ten themes.

***Group sessions on the TEN ACTS (Day 1)***

**Purpose:**

Each Group Session will aim to consider the top priorities and key messages that civil society agree on and will advocate most widely under the specific Act, to bring forward to governments

- [a] in discussions with governments the next day (see below);
- [b] in the government Stocktaking Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday;
- [c] in the Compact’s “Negotiations phase”, from February – July 2018; and ultimately
- [d] in what we are calling “phase 4”: the road to adoption from August through December 2018, when the intergovernmental conference to adopt the Compact takes place in Morocco.

**Structure:**

- Please note: the purpose of the group sessions is not to “re-hash” the language or re-visit other issues in the TEN ACTS, but rather prepare for discussion with governments the next day(s)
- Each group session will have guiding questions to ensure attention to regional emphases that emerged in the regional civil society consultations this year.
- Again, the focus should be on priorities where there is a sense both of great *urgency and convergence* in civil society. “Convergence” never means total or perfect consensus. At times it may be necessary for the group to “agree to disagree” for the moment on a particular part of an issue, ideally to look at it further later, in order to move on here and prepare the strongest issues and convergence to governments that are present in Mexico.

**Format:**

There are **10 Group Sessions, divided into two rounds of 5 sessions, each 1.5 hours:**

<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACT 1 Drivers of human mobility</li> <li>- ACT 2: Safe pathways for human mobility</li> <li>- ACT 3: Protection</li> <li>- ACT 4: Decent work and labour Rights</li> <li>- ACT 5: Decent living conditions and access to justice</li> </ul>
<b>15:30 – 17:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACT 6: Education and Skills</li> <li>- ACT 7: Inclusion and anti-discrimination</li> <li>- ACT 8: Transnational and sustainable Development</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACT 9: Return and reintegration</li> <li>- ACT 10: Governance, Implementation and monitoring</li> </ul>
--	--

### Guiding questions for all group sessions (Day 1):

<p><b>Question 1:</b> On advocacy with states: <b>which states are - or can be - leaders</b> on this issue (positive, negative, or on the fence) and how do we target those in our advocacy, <b>concretely</b> in the next months? Please specify who, when and at what level (local, regional and global).</p> <p><b>Question 2:</b> One of the small <b>tables with governments tomorrow</b> corresponds directly to the theme of our specific group session, and we are expecting representatives of the following governments to participate in that table. [The co facilitators will have the names.] What will our three main questions to them be? How would you suggest that we build our argument to them and what practices and mechanisms can we use to build our arguments?</p> <p><b>Question 3:</b> On <b>“complementarity”</b> with the Global Compact on Refugees: are there any issues that we have discussed in our group session that do NOT apply to refugees – or “in the real world” do many, most or all apply to <i>both</i> migrants and refugees? How can we influence states to respect those connections?</p>
---

- Each group session is expected to have between **7 and 15** civil society participants
- **Each participant is encouraged to participate in two group sessions – one in each round.** It is then recommended that they go to one of the two corresponding small tables with governments the next day (see next section below)
- Each group session will have **two co-leads and a rapporteur**
- **The job of the rapporteur** is [a] to **record** and submit to the organizers the highlights of the Group Session on the Reporting Template (see Annex 1) and [b] to **briefly report back just the key highlights** in a Davos-style plenary session at the end of Saturday afternoon.

### **Day 2 – tables with governments**

- Opening plenary: ambitions of the day and main messages to governments
- Breakouts in smaller groups , mirroring themes discussed in group sessions the day before

#### ***Table discussions with governments***

##### **Purpose:**

To informally exchange perspectives, gather intelligence, advocate and build or deepen a relationship with these governments. Remember: there is a whole year ahead on this Compact, and we and other in civil society will need to talk with this government repeatedly, in their capital as well as New York, Geneva, etc.

**Format:**

- **Each small table will have:**
  - **2-5 representatives of governments**
  - **5-8 civil society leaders**, mostly from the Group session that focused on this same theme Saturday afternoon
  - A **facilitator**, who will be one of the co-leads from the Group session that focused on the same theme. Please note: it is important that this role is facilitator, not moderator, as these tables are not intended to be formal panels and presentations.
- Please note: given their informal, “no-record” nature, **there is no rapporteur for these tables with governments.**
- **Participants are encouraged to:**
  - **focus on rights-based mechanisms of implementation**, and not to simply repeat the rights or commitments *only* (e.g., in conventions, the SDGs or New York Declaration, etc.)
  - **if possible, ask the government representatives:**
    - **if there are others in their government** that we should also be speaking with on this issue, now or in the future, especially in their capitals
    - **if there are other governments we should be speaking with**, that are either positive, negative or on-the-fence on this issue

***Spontaneous tables and networking with Governments (during lunch Sunday):***

Lunchtime is reserved for civil society participants to spontaneously organize their own conversations with the representatives of governments who are present. Normally, these will be the same government representatives who participate in the tables before lunch, but there may be some exceptions where some governments either have to leave or are just arriving.

**Purpose:**

For civil society participants to start or continue informal conversations with government representatives while eating lunch together, on themes and in groups that the civil society participants decide themselves. Among other things, this might open greater possibilities to exchange with governments as the last bullet of the section above suggests (which starts “Participants are encouraged to”).

**Format:**

The who, how many, what focus and where in the lunch area, etc. is all up to civil society participants. But as with the pre-organized tables earlier, there should be no formal agenda or record, no rapporteurs, and full respect for Chatham house rules.

**Participants in this Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy meeting 2-3 December*****Civil society participants:***

There is space and budget to allow for participation of approximately 75 civil society participants. Working with the migration-focused members of the Action Committee—and in further consultation with the ISC and the Inter-Regional Committee, the organisers have drafted a selection procedure for civil society delegates to participate in this Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting that will draw from the regional and global processes focused on the GCM this year. Please see annex 3 for a detailed overview of this process. In early November a list of invited organisations was published on the [website](#). All of the organisations will be encouraged to set up communication channels with their members and with the broader networks and grass roots organisations that they (or their network) may represent, in

preparation to, and following the meeting. To support this two-way flow of information, a civil society **webinar** focused on the Global Compact for Migration was held on 8 November. To listen to the recording of the webinar, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AfyMVI5ujc&t=3297s>.

***States participants:***

On Day 2 specific governments (approximately 40 delegates) will be invited to participate in small tables with civil society.

**UN Stocktaking Conference 4-6 December**

Please direct all questions relating to the government-led stocktaking to [gcmigration@un.org](mailto:gcmigration@un.org).

**Optional reading material**

- [Now and How: TEN ACTS for the Global Compact](#) (November 2017)
- Main outcomes of the Regional Civil Society Consultations for the Global Compact on Migration (pending)
- [MADE Webinar with civil society on advocacy towards the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (8 November 2017)
- [Link to government submissions to SRSG Louise Arbour](#)
- [The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants \(September 2016\)](#)
- [Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration \(February 2017\)](#)
- [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants on a 2035 agenda for facilitating human mobility](#) (only available in English) (April 2017)
- [GFMD 2017 Civil Society Recommendations \(July 2017\)](#)
- [Child Rights in the Global Compacts](#), Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts (June 2017)
- [Issue briefs for the Global Compact on Migration](#), Women in Migration Network (June 2017) and the UN Women [Recommendations for addressing women's human rights in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration](#) (November 2016).