



UNITED NATIONS
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THINK
TANK HUB

UNU-CPR Migration Policy Roundtable 1

From promises to practice:

Towards the effective implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM)

3rd November 15.00-17.00 CET (Geneva and Zoom)

Background

In May 2022, Member States came together for the first [International Migration Review Forum](#) (IMRF) to take stock of progress against their commitments as set out in the [Global Compact on Migration](#) (GCM). In adopting the [Progress Declaration](#), Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the principles underpinning the GCM and delivery of its objectives. But they also acknowledged that the implementation process has been slower than hoped, and uneven in many areas. Progress has also been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has reshaped many aspects of international migration, deepening existing inequalities and creating new ones. Speakers highlighted a significant policy-practice gap between the aspirations of the GCM and the lived experiences of migrants and their families, many of whom continue to experience labour exploitation, limited access to social protection and a lack of rights. Xenophobia and racism directed at migrants is a growing concern.

In this context greater efforts will be needed by Member States to develop - and deliver - ambitious national responses for the implementation of the GCM. These plans will need to be underpinned by data and evidence on the experiences and impacts of migration and its contribution to development, including data and evidence generated by those living and working in the countries of the Global South, where the majority of migration takes place.

Roundtable objectives

This event, taking place six months after the IMRF and ahead of the next round of Regional Reviews, provides an opportunity to reflect on progress made to date in the implementation process, and the challenges that lie ahead in turning the GCM's promises into practice. The roundtable will focus on four cross-cutting principles which underpin the implementation process namely:

- The need to ensure effective ***respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants***, regardless of their migration status, across all stages of the migration cycle;
- The commitment to ***eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance*** against migrants and their families.
- The importance ***a whole-of-government approach*** to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government; and
- The need for a ***whole-of-society approach*** to address migration in all its dimensions.

Our speakers, drawn from government, international organizations, civil society and academia, will reflect on the extent and ways in which implementation of the GCM can be enhanced through reference to these cross-cutting principles, and what more might be done to embed them in the policy and practice of Member States, the private sector and the societies in which migrants live. They will also draw attention to new data and evidence produced by researchers in the Global South which might be used to inform the implementation process.

A UNU-CPR policy brief summarizing the key themes and recommendations will be published online following the event and circulated to all participants.

Audience

The event will be held in a hybrid format - in Geneva and via Zoom. It is aimed at UN agencies, Member States, NGOs, civil society organizations, academia and others with an interest in ensuring the effective implementation of the GCM.

Partners

The event is organized by the [UN University Centre for Policy Research](#) (UNU-CPR) in partnership with the [MIDEQ Hub](#) and [Geneva Science-Policy Interface](#) (GSPI). Financial support has been kindly been provided by [The Think Tank Hub](#).

Moderator

Professor Heaven Crawley, Head, Equitable Development and Migration, UNU-CPR and Director, MIDEQ Hub

Opening remarks

Ambassador Francisca Elizabeth Méndez Escobar, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Speakers

UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (tbc)

Professor Louis HERNANDEZ Marcelin, INURED Haiti and University of Miami

Mr William Gois, Migrant Forum Asia and People's Migration Challenge

Mt Ben Lewis, Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Ms Laurel Townhead, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Mr Jonathan Prentice, Secretariat, UN Network on Migration

Date and time

Thursday 3rd November 2022, 15.00-17.00 CET (followed by a drinks reception and networking opportunity)

Venue

Warwick Geneva (Rigi & Cervin room, Level 1), Rue de Lausanne 14, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland