**Preparatory (stocktaking) meeting
4-6 December 2017, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico**

Chair's summary

The chair's summary of the preparatory (stocktaking), held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 4 to 6 December 2017, is presented in accordance with paragraph 25 of resolution 71/280. Its purpose is to give an account of the proceedings and discussions of the preparatory (stocktaking) meeting, with a particular focus on the proposals and recommendations made by participants with regard to actionable commitments, means of implementation and partnerships, as well as elements for follow-up and review. Together with the report of the UN Secretary-General to be released by mid-January, this chair's summary will inform the co-facilitators' zero draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The preparatory (stocktaking) meeting marked the beginning of phase II of the preparatory process – the stocktaking phase – towards the adoption of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). The results of the stocktaking phase will be: i) a chair's summary of the meeting and ii) a report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations with concrete recommendations for the GCM. These two documents will inform the co-facilitators' zero draft of the GCM, which marks the beginning of phase III. It gathered 136 delegations, with a total of 897 participants from all the regions, including 115 non-governmental stakeholders. The stocktaking meeting provided a unique opportunity to review and distil the wealth of information, data and views gathered in phase I – the consultation phase – of the process, as well as to engage in comprehensive analysis to inform the process going forward, namely the intergovernmental negotiations in the first semester of 2018.

According to paragraph 23 of the modalities resolution for the process (A/RES/71/280) participants were invited:

a) To take stock of inputs received during the informal thematic sessions and regional consultations in phase I;

b) To present inputs from relevant processes outlined in paragraph 22 that have not been presented in the informal thematic sessions;

c) To engage in discussions and analyse the inputs received as they relate to facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration;

d) To discuss potential means of implementation, as well as follow-up and review mechanisms for a global compact.

In line with the ambition of achieving a 360-degree understanding of international migration, the stocktaking meeting allowed delegations to consider the six thematic areas discussed in phase I in conjunction with different dimensions: the human, community, local/sub-national, national, regional and global dimensions. As in phase I, the objective was not to negotiate. The stocktaking meeting provided a platform for delegations and other stakeholders to jointly shape a vision for the GCM and collectively identify actionable commitments as well as respective means of implementation and partnerships the GCM may include. Furthermore, the meeting provided an important first opportunity to consider questions relating to follow-up and review of the GCM.

Day 1 – Monday, 4 December 2017

WELCOME CEREMONY

The Governor of the State of Jalisco, Mr. Jorge Aristóteles Sandoval Díaz welcomed participants in Puerto Vallarta and lauded the GCM as an opportunity to reframe migration policies based on the recognition of human mobility as part of human nature and contribution to sustainable development, thereby transforming the prevailing negative perceptions and empowering migrants.

Ms. Louise Arbour, Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, provided a retrospection on the long way the international community has come since the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. Particularly, she noted the intensive worldwide consultation process in the past months and the opportunity the stocktaking meeting provides to embrace migration as a global phenomenon that is here to stay and reorients the narrative to a more accurate one based on facts. Due to the international nature of migration, she emphasized the need for a global response, highlighting that this does not contradict but rather enhances States' sovereign right to determine their migration policies.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Dr. Luis Videgaray Caso, formally inaugurated the meeting and recalled that while international migration is one of the most pressing issues of our time, it should not be seen as a problem to be fixed but as a reality to be managed. Reflecting on the situation in Mexico as a country of origin, transit, destination, and return, he further underscored the relevance of global standards and international cooperation, since no single country can manage the migratory phenomenon on its own. In this regard, all speakers in the welcome ceremony highlighted that multilateralism, facilitated through the United Nations, offers an appropriate space to understand migration as an opportunity.

OPENING SESSION – INTRODUCTION BY THE CO-FACILITATORS

In their introductory remarks the co-facilitators, Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho and Mr. Jürg Lauber, highlighted that phase I was characterized by an increased recognition of the complexity of international migration. They asserted that Member States had shared their realities and come to the understanding that many of the challenges and opportunities in international migration are not exclusive to a region or a country. Participants were encouraged to continue approaching the phenomenon with a 360 degree vision in order to comprehensively address the challenges and harvest the opportunities of migration. The co-facilitators further commended the level of trust and open-mindedness that has characterized the dialogue among and between Member States and other relevant stakeholders throughout the process. They went on to present the objectives and approaches for the preparatory (stocktaking) meeting, the main purpose of which is to meaningfully link the consultation phase with the negotiation phase through an in-depth analysis of the substance gathered. The session concluded with a video message by his Holiness Pope Francis.

RETROSPECTION SESSION – LOOKING BACK ON PHASE I

This session consisted of two panels that brought together constituencies playing active roles in the preparatory process.

The first panel consisted of representatives of relevant UN institutions and State-led platforms that have contributed to the global, regional and national consultations throughout phase I of the process. The Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Conference looked back on the six rich informal thematic sessions in Geneva, New York and Vienna. A representative from the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) provided an account of the five regional consultations organized by the UN Regional Economic Commissions. The IOM Director General gave an overview of the numerous national consultations, highlighted efforts undertaken by Regional Consultative Processes and shared highlights from the two IOM International Dialogues on Migration (IDM) that were dedicated to the process. The two current co-chairs of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) presented a compendium of best practices and recommendations from the ten GFMD summits in the past decade and reflections on a possible role of the GFMD in the implementation and follow-up of the GCM. Besides sharing the outcomes of their respective preparatory meetings and consultations, panelists highlighted possible ways forward, including the need to develop policies and frameworks that are State-led, evidence-based and inclusive of non-governmental stakeholders. Their accounts highlighted that the process does not start from zero but rather stands to benefit from the numerous relevant platforms for dialogue and existing best practices in elaborating an effective and universally applicable GCM.

The second panel was comprised of various non-governmental stakeholder constituencies, namely civil society, private sector, trade unions, parliaments and National Human Rights Institutions. The two civil society representatives provided an overview of the seven regional civil society consultations that have been organized throughout phase I of the process. They further presented various thematic and global initiatives undertaken by civil society, with a particular focus on the widely endorsed document "Ten Acts for the Global Compact" that contains their vision and principles to be included in the GCM. The private sector representative discussed the business case for migration, highlighting that migration is an opportunity not only for business but for migrants themselves. Migration can support growth and mobility, and thus migration and labour market policies should be aligned so as to balance skills needs and availability. He further presented a document prepared by the GFMD Business Mechanism in consultation with its wide network that contains a range of recommendations for the GCM on issues relevant for the private sector, such as skills mobility, access to labour markets, irregular migration, responsible recruitment and entrepreneurship. The representatives from IPU and GANHRI addressed how parliamentarians and National Human Rights Institutions, respectively, can help shape international agreements and public policies. The panelist from the trade unions highlighted the need to strengthen tripartite collaboration on labour migration, particularly in partnership with the International Labour Organization and the International Organization of Employers. All panelists recognized that a comprehensive vision was required when discussing international understandings, and that the perspectives of migrants and their communities needed to be taken into account.

During the interactive discussions following the two panels, Member States and stakeholders underscored that migration is not a new phenomenon. There is now a space to jointly determine actionable commitments to bring certainty and predictability to migrants, communities and States. State sovereignty was highlighted as an aspect that is neither in question, nor incompatible with increased international cooperation and governance of migration. Several mentions were made of agreements that include flexible and temporary

visa regimes and enable circular migration. Whole of government and whole of society approaches were cited as necessary to respect the dignity of migrants and refrain from commoditizing human beings. Participants referred to regional processes as important mechanisms that needed to be included in the GCM, highlighting that most international migration is intra-regional. Participants further referred to the need of enhancing mechanisms to share information on migration and the important role of data in informing national migration policies.

"IDEA LAB" SESSION – TOWARDS A VISION

The first day of the meeting concluded with the Idea Lab Session. The session was moderated by Ms. Marta Foresti, Managing Director at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Topics ranged from the need to generate value with data and evidence in the presentation made by Ms. Solveigh Hieronimus, Partner at McKinsey & Company, the power of public perceptions and narratives captured in the talk by Mr. Duarte Geraldino, Independent Journalist, and a reflection on the meaning of migration and identity based on the personal story of Ms. Ola Brown Orekunrin, Founder and CEO of Flying Doctors Nigeria. Their talks challenged commonly held views on migration and provided alternative storylines on migration. Their voices inspired participants to engage in a more up-front and personal manner.

Day 2 – Tuesday, 5 December 2017

THEMATIC SYNTHESIS AND CONSOLIDATION SESSION – TOWARDS CONCRETE COMMITMENTS

Phase I of the GCM was framed around six core, non-exhaustive thematic areas of international migration. In the stocktaking phase, the aim was to build on the inputs from phase I by considering a series of dimensions of migration, from the individual level to the global level in six action groups. Coupled with the action groups, the extensive consultations of phase I, including the informal thematic sessions, the regional consultations, and further inputs generated by relevant platforms and stakeholders, the thematic discussions of phase I helped to move towards the identification of concrete and actionable commitments at the preparatory (stocktaking) meeting. Further to the actionable commitments presented in the action groups, delegations submitted a considerable number of recommendation cards, which will form another important basis to the elaboration of the zero draft of the GCM.

The six action groups of day 2 focused on six dimensions of international migration and were introduced by two keynote remarks. These were delivered by Ms. Valérie Plante, Mayor of the City of Montréal, Canada on the human, community and local/sub-national dimensions, and Mr. David Donoghue, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, on the national, regional and global dimensions. The discussions throughout the day yielded the following overarching understanding on each individual action group:

Action group 1: Human dimension. The consultation phase recognized that migrants should be at the core of the GCM process and that the GCM should be people-centred and human rights based. Migrants' motivations, experiences, needs and vulnerabilities need to be properly understood in order to identify ways for migration to have beneficial outcomes for migrants, their families and all involved communities.

Action group 2: Community dimension. The community level is key to many aspects of migration dynamics. In particular, the role of communities relating to issues of integration, inclusion and promoting social cohesion is especially important. Host communities need to recognize and harmonise the needs of migrants and the local community, and play a key role in providing access to services and making the most of contributions of migration. Meanwhile, origin communities play a key role in informing migration choices and promoting safe migration opportunities, and in connecting with diaspora.

Action group 3: Local/sub-national dimension. Local or sub-national level authorities often have the largest role to play in everyday engagement with migration dynamics, and form a crucial component of migration governance. Local and sub-national institutions address the daily needs of migrants and local communities – particularly in integration, service provision, migration information, labour market access and diaspora engagement as also recognized at the community level. They are increasingly playing key roles to manage migration more effectively and for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Action group 4: National dimension. The role of sovereign States is central in the context of international migration. States have sovereign rights regarding their territories and borders and have the ultimate legislative authority to set national policy relating to migration, in line with international law, in particular the human rights frameworks. The GCM is a key opportunity for States to identify and promote effective, concrete ways to enhance safe, orderly and regular migration that are based on existing principles and frameworks with effective implementation mechanisms.

Action group 5: Regional dimension. Most international migration is intra-regional and it is therefore essential that regional institutions and agreements can play a key role in facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration. Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) and other regional platforms can help build consensus between countries and ultimately promote effective migration cooperation within and between regions. The GCM offers an opportunity for greater engagement of regional platforms on migration, which in this context may act in particular as an important link between global standards and their implementation at other levels.

Action group 6: Global dimension. The GCM process constitutes a crucial opportunity to forge effective and coherent international cooperation between Member States and all other relevant stakeholders to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. For this purpose, it will need to be anchored in existing relevant frameworks and agreements, such as international human rights instruments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Further, the GCM is an opportunity to strengthen cooperation between global institutions regarding migration issues, particularly within the UN system, as well as between regional organizations and processes.

ACTION GROUP 1: HUMAN DIMENSION

There was wide acknowledgment that the GCM should be people-centred and commit to the protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants, regardless of their status. Delegations reaffirmed that this is necessary in order to leave no one behind.

The need to develop strong migration management systems that are grounded in human rights principles and practice was highlighted as a main aspect. Against that background, there was general recognition of the obligations of States under international law to respect, to protect and to fulfil the human rights of all migrants. Furthermore, it was stated that States bear the main responsibility in ensuring access to services. Emphasis was placed on implementing existing human rights treaties and norms, and respecting the rule of law in order to ensure that all human beings receive equal protection of their fundamental rights. The specific vulnerabilities and needs of migrant children were mentioned as an area that merits particular attention. In addition to highlighting other categories of vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, stateless persons or victims of trafficking, some delegations also called for a better protection of migrants who do not qualify as refugees but are entitled to human rights and in need of protection due to the vulnerability of the situation they face. These might include, among others, people who are compelled to move due to adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters. Some Member States emphasized again the need to address the issue of detention of migrants. Further, the ongoing need to promote the rights of migrant workers and improve decent work was recognized as an important area of discussion. Overall, the GCM should protect women migrants' rights, by mainstreaming gender perspectives into policy and legislation. Finally, delegations reaffirmed that the human dimension of migration also entails engaging effectively with diaspora.

Participants underscored the expansion and diversification of regular pathways as a means to help prevent irregular migration as well as to reduce the risks linked to trafficking, smuggling and modern slavery, including breaking networks of smugglers and traffickers. In order to foster regular pathways for migration, the GCM should look, among others, at opportunities linked to labour mobility, for example by including commitments on ethical recruitment, skills development and recognition. Overall, delegations reaffirmed that a whole of government and whole of society approach is needed to effectively address the human dimension of migration, and States should continue to develop their capacity to build effective and comprehensive systems of migration.

Recommendations for actionable commitments and respective means of implementation included:

- Build and uphold strong legal frameworks to protect migrants. This could include a consolidation of human rights treaties and standards, strengthening of national implementation through domestication of international norms into national legislation, as well as setting up robust human rights monitoring and accountability mechanisms

- Uphold the principle of non-refoulement by prohibiting forced removals in cases where there are reasons to believe that a person's life might be put at risk

- Improve access to information for migrants, including on the opportunities of migration and the risks of irregular migration, so they can make informed decisions

- Protect the rights of child migrants, particularly unaccompanied children. This can be done by creating concrete guidelines safeguarding the best interests of the child in all stages of the migratory cycle, providing children access to legal representation, ending child detention and developing alternatives to this practice

- Reaffirm the duty to protect the specific needs of migrants in vulnerable situations and encourage the development of non-binding guidelines for their protection. Protection can be fostered by including National Human Rights Institutions in the monitoring and follow-up, and by providing migrants in vulnerable situations humanitarian visa or residence status

- Ensure access to justice and strengthen accountability mechanisms on human rights violations, including mechanisms that allow a filing and monitoring of cross-border human rights complaints

- Develop global and national standards on and strengthen government oversight over fair recruitment practices, including on recruitment fees

- Develop inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder prevention strategies to combat human trafficking and avoid exploitation of migrants

- Build partnerships and transparent mechanisms for skills recognition and training with the private sector and employers in countries of origin and destination, and establish joint platforms for standardized information sharing on employment opportunities, rights and obligations

- Promote and communicate migrants' access to basic services, including to health care, education, social protection and justice, by establishing counselling centers for migrants and by providing targeted information to service providers on how to address migrants' needs and enhance intercultural sensitivity. Where necessary for migrant rights protection and accessibility, firewalls between these services and law enforcement should be established

- Mainstream gender across migration management. For example, ensure that the migration status of women is not linked to their spouse, provide SGBV protection and prevention services for migrants, and eliminate discriminatory restrictions on women's ability to migrate

- Promote citizenship and regularization opportunities through innovative means, including through the issuing or renewal of humanitarian and work visas

- Take a human rights-based approach to detention for irregular migrants, using this a last resort only and working to create alternatives to detention, including community based alternatives. In situations where detention is used as last resort, the development of global minimum standards could be considered

- Make available assisted voluntary returns that respect human dignity, and ensure the provision of social protection and reintegration services for returned migrants

- Continue efforts on capacity building on migration governance and management

- Improve consular services for migrants, including by establishing migrant resource centers and consular service centers on transit routes

ACTIONG GROUP 2: COMMUNITY DIMENSION

The need to ensure effective integration of migrants in host communities was a recurrent topic in discussions on the community dimension. Participants agreed that integration is a two-way process between the host community and migrants and hence a joint responsibility. Given that integration primarily happens in the work place or in schools it is a process in which various actors can play different roles to support mutual understanding and respect. For example, community leaders, private sector actors, migrant community representatives and religious leaders can be mobilized to inform migrants of their rights and obligations. As integration issues are shaped at the community level, States need to forge partnerships with and strengthen the capacity of community actors in this area. Therefore, many delegations highlighted their wish to see a GCM that encourages and facilitates dialogue between community level stakeholders and national policymaking. Further, it was mentioned that rural, indigenous and climate change-affected communities are amongst the most vulnerable and should not be left behind in future discussions.

Deliberations highlighted that the GCM should recognize that migration also affects communities in countries of origin, among others, through upholding close links with migrants and diasporas, as well as through social and financial remittances of migrants and other mechanisms, such as transnational community organizations or consular outreach. At the same time, community organizations and leaders in origin communities can shape migration dynamics as they can help ensure prospective migrants are informed about available regular pathways as well as the risks of irregular migration. Participants further highlighted the need to take into account the role of communities in countries of origin to ensure the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants. On the brink, delegations touched upon the important role of local communities and civil society in countries of transit, particularly by highlighting their contribution in ensuring the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations.

Participants reiterated how public perceptions on migration are often disconnected from evidence and facts, and that better data on migration is essential to move towards a more realistic narrative of migration. Among the means to address misperceptions, delegations suggested to promote exchanges with media representatives and to work more closely with diaspora organizations to facilitate integration and foster mutual understanding. In this context, participants stressed the need for countries of origin to collect data on their diaspora communities abroad to facilitate a mapping of the availability of skills and potential for social remittances.

Recommendations for actionable commitments and respective means of implementation included:

- Engage migrants and actors in host communities on their mutual responsibilities and rights towards each other through different channels, including by setting up joint learning seminars, put in place community dialogues, and institutionalize post-arrival information training for migrants

- Offer upskilling and educational opportunities to migrants, as well as training on languages, vocational training, financial literacy and understanding social norms

- Support multi-cultural activities (sports, music, arts, food, etc.) at the community level and platforms for the host community to connect on a personal level. This can be done by forging partnerships between diaspora organizations and host communities to support such activities and help address migration misperceptions and xenophobia

- Support mutual capacity building and forge partnerships between particular origin and destination communities on integration issues

- Partner with diaspora and communities and local communities in the countries of origin in informing prospective migrants of regular pathways and risks of irregular migration

- Develop awareness-raising campaigns on intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia targeted at local communities in partnership with the media

- Support local communities in ensuring effective and sustainable reintegration of migrants who decide to return, in order to support the utilization of acquired skills and encourage entrepreneurship

- Promote partnerships with the private sector to facilitate labour market access for migrants and social cohesion at the work place through language courses, vocational training, cultural mentoring and the establishment of a an environment that respects diversity

- Forge partnerships between diaspora and origin communities so that diasporas can contribute effectively to community-level development and reduction of household poverty, including by

facilitating the transfer of social remittances, trade, investment, skills and knowledge transfer as well as social and cultural exchange

- Promote clear, positive, and fact-based public messaging on migration issues in partnership with community leaders to address misperceptions through factual data and hence support integration, social cohesion and mutual respect in societies

- Establish a database to register migrants abroad, in close collaboration with migrant organizations and consulates, as a tool to provide helpful services and to assist migrants in emergencies

- Encourage mapping of diaspora communities and their skills, and engage with diaspora organizations to facilitate such mapping by registering individuals and diaspora communities

- Establish community-based crisis centers where migrants can report complaints about discriminatory offences and intolerant treatments

ACTION GROUP 3: LOCAL/SUB-NATIONAL DIMENSION

Overall, participants agreed that the local level is "where migration happens". Migration is most visible at the local level, and it was noted that schools, work places, churches and many other local spaces are often at the forefront of migration dynamics. Some delegations emphasized that this recognition of the importance of the local level should underpin all actionable commitments in the GCM. In this regard, delegations recalled the existing frameworks and initiatives, such as the Habitat III New Urban Agenda, the Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development, and the conference held in Mechelen a.o. that should be further considered.

Local level authorities' particular role in integration was highlighted in the discussion as they ensure access to services and foster understanding and mutual respect amongst migrants and host societies. Furthermore, participants again noted in this dimension, that integration was a two-way process and that opportunities should be available to promote migrants' own culture while respecting the norms and habits of the host community. There is a need to share views, and assess capacities at the local level in order to put together well-conceived local practices that effectively promote integration. Participants noted that special attention must be paid to the integration of youth, and that integration measures at the local level present an important means to address intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia. Further, the role of local authorities and communities for sustainable return and reintegration was highlighted.

Local level governance plays an important role in the protection of migrants and in ensuring their access to basic services. Participants emphasized the need to make policies that serve the best interests of migrant children, address vulnerabilities of female migrants and at the same time promote the role of women as agents of sustainable development. The role of local and sub-national authorities in building frameworks for crisis preparedness that consider the needs of migrants and host communities alike was further acknowledged. The role of local level actors in labour mobility was highlighted too, and many participants agreed that local level governments should be able to play a bigger role in defining their labour needs and shaping migrant labour supply. Finally, while most of discussions has been on cities, participants recognized that there are also many migrants in rural areas and that these situations should be considered in the GCM as well.

Recommendations for actionable commitments and respective means of implementation included:

- Build strong partnerships between national and local/sub-national governments, and ensure vertical policy coherence between different levels of government

- Expand the role of local and sub-national authorities beyond the implementation of national laws and policies by ensuring their involvement in the development of national policies

- Reinforce capacities of local actors in planning, implementing and evaluating coherent policy frameworks and innovative measures to effectively address migration at the local level and integrate migration into local development plans

- Facilitate dialogue between stakeholders at the local level to enable the sharing of views and assessment of needs with a view to establishing well-conceived practices and policies

- Promote engagement of local actors in mayoral forums to discuss migration governance issues, share best practices, for example on socio-economic inclusion of migrants and build multi-stakeholder mechanisms and networks with other local actors

- Promote the increasing engagement of local actors in regional consultative processes (RCPs) on migration, so that more can become active members of these and develop relevant partnerships

- Ensure that governments pursue broad and multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level, including with civil society, the private sector as well as with migrants and citizens themselves

- Recognize the important role IOM can play at a local level through its close collaboration with local actors in the development and implementation of programmes and projects

- Inform migrants actively of their rights, as well as of work and education opportunities at the local level, for example by providing orientation packages

- Provide pre- and post-departure services and training at the local level, including the possibility to set up "one-stop shops" to this end. These could take the form of support centers that offer a range of gender-sensitive services to migrants, including early language learning, health services, educational opportunities, job skills training, financial services, family reunification, return and reintegration support

- Foster public and private sponsorship at local level in partnership with civil society organizations, host communities and diaspora communities

- Provide services for migrants on an equal footing with nationals and set up firewalls between service providers and immigration enforcement to ensure better accessibility for migrants

- Foster local level residence procedures and status determination, for example through ensuring that migrants have access to the identity documents necessary to utilize local services

- Involve religious and traditional leaders as well as civil society and private sector in local programmes and campaigns against intolerance, xenophobia, stereotypes and discrimination

- Establish a hotline for migrants to report xenophobic harassment and abuse

- Train relevant local officials on how to identify and assist certain migrant groups who may have special needs, such as victims of trafficking, vulnerable migrants, and migrant children

- Promote local information campaigns about regular pathways and existing possibilities for status regularizations

- Strengthen the capacities of local authorities and communities in facilitating sustainable return and providing reintegration programmes, including during crises through the establishment of systems

that recognize the needs of migrants who may not speak the language and lack knowledge of emergency procedures

- Provide open spaces that allow migrants to live their culture and facilitate cultural exchange between migrant and host communities

- Involve diasporas in the linguistic, economic, cultural and social integration of newcomers as well as in the awareness-raising on existing legal pathways, work opportunities as well as risks involved with irregular migration for potential migrants

- Facilitate the effective monitoring of skills needs at local level with a view to enhancing regular pathways, particularly by allowing local authorities to identify local labour demand, and levels and profiles of migrant workers needed

- Promote the role of local actors, including local authorities and the private sector in skills development and recognition of qualifications in relation to the skills gaps on the local labour market

- Monitor compliance with standards for fair and ethical recruitment as well as decent work standards at the local level

- Foster the development effects of migration at the local level, including by providing safe and secure remittances transfer and financial inclusion measures in collaboration with the private sector

- Take concrete steps towards improving migration data collection and management at the local level

- Promote a stronger role of National Human Rights Institutions at local levels

ACTION GROUP 4: NATIONAL DIMENSION

There was broad reaffirmation that States have the sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in their territory, subject to international law, including human rights. The discourse surrounding the national dimension reiterated the responsibility of States to manage their migration policies in a manner consistent with international law. At the same time, there was a recognition that countries have an obligation to accept returning nationals. Participants noted that return procedures must always be dignified, respect human rights and be sustainable. The crucial need to recognize the fundamental sovereign rights of countries regarding migration and borders was emphasized. Participants discussed whether the GCM should include an overarching statement providing that nothing in the GCM will impinge on State sovereignty. Some delegations further noted that upholding State sovereignty through effective management of borders can help sustain public confidence in migration systems.

The importance of ensuring the protection of the human rights of migrants regardless of status at national level was emphasized throughout discussions. Certain groups such as migrant children, especially those who are unaccompanied, and migrants in vulnerable situations need special attention and assistance, and these cannot be left behind. Further, the rights and interests of migrant workers need to be protected, since they are often at risk of exploitation. In order to reduce migrants' proneness to abuse and exploitation, States should provide appropriate information on their rights at all stages of migration. It was further noted by many that the provision of identity documents to migrants is critical to both protect rights and help ensure access to services, including health, education, financial services, and justice. Integration, including access to services, was a salient issue and some participants emphasized that State provision of services comes with rights and responsibilities for migrants. Effectively combating racism and xenophobia in host communities was identified as another priority for integration policies at national level. Other participants

made references to climate change and the importance of understanding and addressing the issue in the national context.

The facilitation of regular pathways and migration modalities through a national policy framework, including different forms of permanent, temporary, and circular migration, could help to reduce irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling. In this regard, many highlighted the key role of diversifying opportunities for labour mobility at all skills levels. National governments need to identify the skills they need at different levels, align migration policies with labour market policies, and at the same time work to ensure fair and ethical recruitment of migrants. The enormous benefit of migrant remittances to countries' economies, and the need to take this into account and facilitate more effective remittance transfer was also emphasized, as was the need to fully harness the potential of migrants for economic growth in countries or origin and destination.

To achieve overall migration governance objectives at national level across areas, a whole of government approach as well as a whole of society approach is needed. Many participants highlighted the importance to ensure a coherent national approach to migration policy, in both origin and host countries, that includes civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholder. In addition, national migration policies and frameworks should build on existing treaties, conventions and standards, while at the same time strengthen capacity building in managing migration. Many identified IOM as a natural partner to help States identify gaps in national systems and build their migration management capacity based on the organization's extensive experience and expertise. Finally, the need for improved national migration data to build an evidence base across topics was a crosscutting theme in discussions.

Recommendations for actionable commitments and respective means of implementation included:

- Align national migration policies with relevant international human rights treaties and standards, by making amendments in national legislation and promoting expert exchanges to develop relevant programmes

- Promote the provision of identity documents to migrants, by registering migrant births and reaching undocumented populations, thus combatting statelessness

- Educate children in host countries about migrant and refugee children, and migration more broadly, for example by including information about migration in their national education curricula and stressing the counterproductive effects of racism and xenophobia

- Ensure fair recruitment is upheld at the national level, using ILO standards, conventions and IOM's "IRIS" initiative

- Use official government websites to publicize regular pathways available to migrants

- Have effective management of borders to instill public confidence in migration systems by cooperation and exchange of good practices between countries

- Promote national capacity building on migration management, for example by training police and others on protecting the human rights of migrants, and identifying and assisting victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants

- Mainstream migration into national development planning and sectoral policies, by linking migration policies and legislation to commitments and objectives from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Establish whole of government approaches to migration governance plans, for example by developing national action plans on migration with the participation of all relevant stakeholders
- Set up inter-ministerial and/or multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at national level to advise policies, ensure coherence and review actions
- Promote systematic international cooperation on exchange of information and intelligence on migration-related issues
- Address the impacts of slow onset climate change as a driver for migration, for example by calling for cooperation in assisting countries at risk

ACTION GROUP 5: REGIONAL DIMENSION

Participants recognised that regional cooperation on migration has gained momentum in recent decades. It was noted that the New York Declaration recognizes the importance of regional cooperation and specifically the role of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) to this end. Regional mechanisms, such as RCPs, can help identify the most urgent challenges in regions, build trust among states to boost cooperation, promote practical knowledge sharing, and foster intra-regional as well as cross-regional collaboration. These processes bring together countries with different migration situations and help build links between national and international levels of migration governance. Participants discussed that the GCM should be flexible enough to take into consideration the varied migration realities of different regions.

At the regional level, there is potential for a more coordinated approach in migration management bringing together origin, transit, receiving and return States to facilitate effective practices. Concretely, certain aspects of migration management, such as tackling the drivers of migration, addressing irregular migration, combatting trafficking, and cooperating on return and readmission, have a strong regional dimension. Therefore, there are certain areas of regional cooperation that are especially important. Participants particularly underscored the importance of regional cooperation for the expansion and diversification of regular migration pathways, of enhanced regional cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration through judicial and border management collaboration, and regional cooperation on human rights protection. Participants also recognised that regional cooperation was key to address humanitarian issues in protecting migrants in vulnerable situations, particularly those in transit.

As most international migration is intra-regional, the potential for more coherent international cooperation at the regional level was widely mentioned. In particular, this was discussed in the context of labour mobility. Addressing labour market gaps at the regional level is significant, as regional and cross-regional engagement to match skills, recognise qualifications and provide better access to training and employment opportunities has great potential. Regional approaches were also recognized as significant to help prevent trafficking, smuggling and transnational organized crime.

There was wide agreement that it was important for the GCM to endorse and build on existing regional cooperation and RCP mechanisms, and that there was a need to consider concretely how regional processes can contribute overall to GCM implementation and follow-up. As regional systems can be important vehicles for collection analysis and exchange of migration data, this latter point was given emphasis.

Recommendations for actionable commitments and respective means of implementation included:

- Facilitate and promote regular information and best practice exchange, harmonization of practices, and coordinated migration management capacity building within and across regions

- Equip RCPs to become key agents to implement relevant actionable commitments of the GCM and lead in follow-up as monitoring and evaluation systems could include regional mechanisms

- Promote coordinated information sharing and capacity building in border management at the regional level

- Enhance cooperation between judiciary, law enforcement and border authorities at the regional level, for example, by including a broader range of participants in Regional Consultative Processes

- Harmonize cross-border management to enhance return, readmission and reintegration mechanisms by developing standardized training manuals for border officials

- Ratify relevant regional and international treaties that take into consideration particular realities and trends

- Promote regional cooperation on cross border movement of persons affected by disasters

- Improve the reach of consular protection, for example, by creating joint consular posts and regional guidelines

- Harmonize travel documents within regions to facilitate and lower the cost of regular migration

- Open and diversify regional migration channels, for example by promoting temporary, seasonal, circular, temporary, flexible and permanent regional employment schemes

- Ensure adequate issuance of travel documents to returning migrants

- Establish a framework of cooperation to protect and promote rights of migrant workers

- Create regional fair recruitment and skills recognition mechanisms in the form of regional skills partnerships to encourage skills creation and mobility, involving businesses and employers

- Strengthen the role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in migration. For example, expand their mandates to include cross-border human rights issues and include them in GCM monitoring, follow-up and review of the commitments acquired by their countries

- Establish networks of focal points within and across regions that can help address specific issues related to migration

- Promote regular engagement with regional CSO groups on migration management

- Collect and systemize data on regional migration trends by creating regional databases on migration

- Collect detailed data on profiles of migrants and needs of countries in employment for better jobs and skills matching at a regional level

ACTION GROUP 6: GLOBAL DIMENSION

During discussions on the global dimension, Member States and stakeholders identified what they considered as possible central characteristics and components of the GCM, and highlighted some migration issues for which global cooperation or action may be most needed.

The need to protect the human rights of migrants, regardless of their status, was widely emphasized. Participants stressed that the GCM must have a normative foundation based on human rights frameworks. The GCM should aim to contribute to the implementation of existing global frameworks on human rights, rather than creating new ones. Further, the drivers of migration must be addressed at the global level, in particular by promoting efforts to sustain peace and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some participants recognized that in order to do so effectively, governments needed to cooperate and coordinate on other related transnational issues beyond the migration arena such as ODA, foreign investment, taxation and technology transfer. A number of delegations highlighted the need to expand regular migration pathways globally, including through better publicizing pathways that are available, and considering regularization of irregular migrants.

Participants discussed the non-binding nature of the GCM and the need to combine its overarching respect for sovereignty with its complementary focus on international cooperation. Nevertheless, a small number of delegations proposed that the GCM be legally binding, at least in part. The principle of shared responsibility was also mentioned throughout discussions, and there was agreement about the importance of strong follow-up mechanisms to the GCM. Various viewpoints emerged with regard to the scope and nature of such follow-up. Many referred to the importance of making full use of existing global migration architecture, with links to the review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Others referred to the importance of voluntary reporting on GCM implementation. Reference was also made to the need for coherence between the migration and the refugee compacts, whilst avoiding the undermining of the current legal refugee protection framework.

The key role of capacity building in migration governance at all levels was further recognized as a critical issue as well as the central need of improved disaggregated migration data, particularly to capture the positive contributions by migrants. The role of IOM as the leading UN actor on migration was recognized. Many delegations called for its role to be formally clarified in terms of leading both a UN system-wide approach to migration, as well as the follow-up arrangements of the GCM. The critical complementary role of many other UN entities was also underlined, particularly those with migration-specific mandates.

A number of other diverse thematic points were mentioned. Some delegations stressed the need to create global standards to ensure safe return of migrants to countries of origin. Others mentioned protecting child migrants, addressing particular vulnerabilities face by female migrants, protecting migrant labour rights, realizing the potential of remittances by lowering transfer costs, preventing smuggling and trafficking, promoting integration of migrants, and ensuring the right to health of all migrants.

Recommendations for actionable commitments and respective means of implementation included:

- Ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families, the Palermo Protocols on smuggling and trafficking, and other relevant international instruments
- Strengthen global coordination on smuggling and trafficking, including via awareness raising campaigns
- Establish a fund to assist migrants in cases of distress
- Establish global principles and cooperation frameworks for return and reintegration
- Cooperate on global information sharing on regular pathways for migrants
- Reduce visa barriers and simplify conversion of different types of visas

- Adopt ethical recruitment mechanisms and eliminate migrant worker recruitment fees

- Lower administrative and fiscal costs of migrant remittances, recognizing their development impact as private capital

- Establish a coordinated global approach and cooperation framework on improving migration data

- Improve cooperation on missing migrants and migrant deaths in the area of identification, information exchange and assistance for relatives

- Strengthen national migration governance capacity, for example through a demand-led capacity building financing facility, and ensure that extra financial support is available to States that require particular assistance in capacity building

- Harness the existing international human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and mechanisms to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status

- Align the GCM follow-up and review process to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to take full advantage of the SDG review process

- Develop guidelines for addressing specific vulnerable groups and situations, such as stateless persons, victims of natural disasters and others that may need additional international protection

- Use technology to support safe migration, for example by sharing data, improving registration of citizens and sharing biometric registration to identify migrants

Day 3 – Wednesday, 6 December 2017

REPORTING SESSION: THEMATIC SYNTHESIS AND CONSOLIDATION – TOWARDS CONCRETE COMMITMENTS

In the morning of day 3, the rapporteurs presented a summary of their respective action group with a particular focus on the concrete recommendations conveyed by delegations. These concise reports formed the basis of the chapter above, summarizing the actionable commitments and respective means of implementation discussed under each dimension.

FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION SESSION – TOWARDS A COHERENT INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

This session allowed a first discussion among delegations on mechanisms for follow-up, review and implementation of the GCM. At the beginning of the session, inputs were presented by Ms. Colleen Thouez, Senior Fellow of the Columbia University Global Policy Initiative, and Mr. Colin Rajah, IOM Civil Society Liaison.

Both panelists emphasized that the GCM needs to have a concrete impact on the ground and hence should be accompanied by adequate measures to ensure its full implementation. Overall, the GCM should be seen

as a starting point for strengthened international cooperation rather than an end in itself. Whether stand-alone or built on existing mechanisms, a follow-up and review mechanism should bring together Member States and other stakeholders on a regular basis to review progress on commitments, exchange experiences and discuss migration policy and practice at the United Nations. This should be done at all levels of government and foster true partnerships with a broad variety of stakeholders by building on their specific expertise and their potential to support the implementation. States need the resources to build capacities to secure actions that have a qualitative positive impact on migrants. In this regard, it was proposed that one focus of the monitoring aspect could be on funding, including considering the establishment of a financing facility for migration that would support such capacity building functions.

Generally, it was suggested that a follow-up and review mechanism could rely on national self-assessment by States and coalitions of actors, as well as a periodic global report on progress, prepared by the UN or a panel of experts, based on an agreed set of indicators. Given the importance of the regional dimension of migration, panelists proposed to also take stock of regional progress. In addition, they reiterated the important role of those actors who are confronted with the phenomenon of migration on a daily basis, in particular civil society and local authorities.

From an institutional perspective, the panelists underscored that a strong IOM as first among equals in the UN system could be an important step towards a more coherent and effective migration governance. In order to be able to deliver on the expectations, it was argued that the IOM would need to seek and implement reforms. This would encompass, among others, to allow the IOM to engage in long-term thinking through more stable funding, to reform the organization to ensure the strategic and knowledge generation capacity to match its operational capacity, to improve capacity building through a better integration of new technologies into its learning and assessment processes, and to initiate a stronger regional activation through deeper political engagement and operational strategies that draw on the UN regional governance systems.

In the discussion, it was widely acknowledged that the GCM should be non-legally binding, actionable, results-oriented, and practice-focused. Delegations reaffirmed that a successful implementation of the commitments of the GCM should build on a multi-leveled approach that enhances cooperation at local, national, regional and global level as well as between all levels of government. Furthermore, it should promote multi-stakeholder partnerships based on a whole-of-society approach that includes, among others, civil society, the private sector, diaspora and migrant organizations, parliamentarians and trade unions. Capacity-building was referenced as an important means to ensure effective implementation. Some delegations favoured the establishment of a dedicated funding mechanism, whereas others do not see the need for creating a central financing structure and prefer to build on existing instruments.

With regards to effective implementation, the suggestions presented for consideration included, among others:

- Ensure that Member States bear the main responsibility in implementing and monitoring the GCM
- Integrate implementation in existing national mechanisms, align national legislation with GCM commitments and develop national strategies and action plans
- Develop regional action plans to enhance implementation and exchange on best practices
- Scale up best practices through regular regional and cross-regional exchanges and promote yearly meetings of the Regional Consultative Processes (RCP)

- Establish a mechanism for capacity-building
- Consider an implementation mechanism that does not impact assessed contributions but rather explores multi-stakeholder implementation partnerships, including with the private sector
- Recognize the role of IOM in GCM implementation on the basis of the organization's technical expertise, experience in capacity-building and policy support
- Designate IOM as lead organization in coordinating the UN system's support to GCM implementation in close cooperation with other relevant agencies that have specific mandates and expertise on migration
- Transform the Global Migration Group (GMG) into a joint secretariat with IOM as a chair
- Decide on a universal body to coordinate the follow-up and to promote standard setting for issues that are not dealt with by any UN agency
- Enhance multi-stakeholder cooperation, including by considering tripartite systems
- Utilize the GFMD as a platform for implementation and innovation as well as to promote emerging issues and those not included in the GCM
- Consider the GFMD as a repository for best practices and as platform for dialogue, while maintaining its informal character that plays also an important role for the inclusion of and partnerships with other actors
- Enable new partnerships between coalitions of States and stakeholders willing to take the lead on the implementation of certain commitments

There was a shared understanding that a follow-up and review mechanism for the GCM will be a crucial determinant of its functioning and implementation. Such mechanism should be State-driven, multi-disciplinary and look at the progress made and challenges faced in the short, medium and long term.

While some delegations called for a robust review mechanism with voluntary but clear goals, targets and indicators at global and at national levels, others emphasized that the follow-up should primarily focus on mapping progress, sharing best practices and supporting countries in strengthening capacities for implementation rather than monitoring compliance.

At institutional level, a number of Member States expressed their support for a follow-up and review mechanism that builds on the existing, is light touch and low-cost in nature and avoids the creation of new structures. It was also mentioned that such mechanism should be based on a holistic evaluation in order to reduce fragmentation and foster a UN system delivering as one. There was wide acknowledgement that the IOM should have a key role in the coordination, building on its technical and policy expertise. Such coordination should be done in close coordination with other UN entities with migration-related mandates in order to break down silos and make use of the multifaceted knowledge and capacity of the UN system as a whole.

Among the existing structures, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), the UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (UNHLD) and the IOM Informal Dialogue on Migration were referenced by various delegations as potential avenues to be further explored in order to align the GCM with existing processes. Furthermore, some delegations favoured the continuation of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) as an informal and complementary dialogue platform.

With regards to a follow-up and review mechanism, the suggestions presented for consideration included, among others:

- Envisage a yearly follow-up, for example in the form of a peer review or a national self-assessment
- Designate the IOM as leading agency to play the overseeing role of the GCM with other relevant agencies, for example to serve as secretariat
- Encourage the IOM to periodically map progress drawing on the GMG and feed these progress reports into the UN General Assembly, including the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)
- Align the follow-up and review mechanism with the work of the General Assembly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), and build on the SDG voluntary national reviews as a good model
- Utilize the High Level Political Forum as forum for periodic review
- Link the follow-up and review mechanism with the ongoing UN reform process
- Encourage the GFMD to elaborate annual reports that could feed into the GCM review
- Establish a voluntary reporting mechanism as well as a joint reporting platform for countries of origin, transit and destination
- Ensure that reviews at regional level feed into the global review process, thereby strengthening existing processes, such as the Global Meeting of the RCPs
- Devote the UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (UNHLD) to review national voluntary commitments
- Envisage the IOM Informal Dialogue on Migration (IDM) to operate as a vehicle for follow-up which could then feed into the UN General Assembly
- Consider reviewing the progress on the implementation of the GCM at a follow-up conference in five, ten or twenty years after its adoption in 2018

CONCLUDING SESSION – TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

The concluding session offered a space for delegations to reflect on the preparatory (stocktaking) meeting as a whole and reiterate their vision and priorities for the GCM. These final deliberations by Member States ensued after two eminent experts shared their overarching observations on the meeting and the Special Representative for International Migration provided insight into the Secretary-General's report.

Noting the substantive and forward-looking nature of the stocktaking meeting, Ms. Kathleen Newland, Senior Fellow of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), acknowledged the progress of the global migration dialogue. The level of sophistication and convergence reached in the past decade has led to the emergence of a common vision for international migration as enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and echoed in the New York Declaration.

The critical question is how the GCM can translate the common vision of safe, orderly and regular migration into actionable commitments that reflect the different priorities of Member States, as there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach. Her proposal for the GCM is to become a framework of mutually reinforcing commitments designed to achieve the shared vision through so called "mini-multilateralism". Coalitions

could be built by Member States in partnership with other stakeholders for voluntary commitments around common priorities. The GFMD could continue to provide the informal platform for such State-led but not State-only initiatives with IOM substantively and technically supporting their development and implementation. Rather than setting up an accountability mechanism, the follow-up mechanism of the GCM could focus on progress achieved through problem-solving and coalition-building.

Mr. Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners and Chairman of the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), reflected on three prevailing misconceptions of international migration that the GCM should overcome. He called for a comprehensive understanding of the economic contributions of labour migration at all levels and to move away from the prevailing narrative on the best and brightest talents. He further observed that while the concept of generalized regularization was contested, targeted programs of regularizations were commonly implemented by States in all regions. His third observation related to the role of storytelling in shaping the narrative of migration.

He noted that facts alone cannot change the predominant negative perceptions about migration and that leadership in telling positive stories was required. In concluding his remarks, he sketched a blueprint for the GCM with the following elements: preamble; GCM vision; reaffirmation of existing agreements; new and updated principles; commit to omit; actionable commitments; principle on implementation; means of implementation; review, monitoring and improvement; usage of format.

Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration and Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Conference, described the GCM as a product of our time based on the contemporary opportunities and challenges of migration. The GCM will be an important milestone to consolidate the fundamental pillars of multilateralism, namely respect for State sovereignty and enhanced interstate cooperation.

In this light, the report of the UN Secretary-General to be released in mid-January calls for political leadership in shaping a global approach to the phenomenon of migration and heralding a new era of implementation and international cooperation based on existing commitments. The report will encompass a proposal on the range of options and approaches that merit exploration by Member States to address a number of major issues, such as enhancing regular migration by reducing vulnerabilities and promoting its benefits as well as addressing irregular migration and mixed movements. Further, the report will be dedicated to questions of implementation, including the UN system response and intergovernmental follow-up within the UN.

CLOSING CEREMONY

H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly, participated in the closing ceremony as a guest of honour. In his intervention, he underscored the historic significance of the New York Declaration and the commitment of Member States to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. He commended the achievements of the process thus far by highlighting important lessons learned about migration in numbers, practice and impact. He called upon Member States to remain committed to the process, participate constructively in the ensuing intergovernmental negotiation process and engage in a real dialogue with a view to finding compromise on the basis of the strong commonalities identified throughout the initial phases of the process. Among such commonalities is the shared ambition to uphold national sovereignty and, at the same time to forge an effective international response to the global phenomenon of migration that is people-centered and human rights-based.

The strong call for multilateralism and the historic potential of the GCM for a transformative approach to international migration expressed by the President of the General Assembly was joined by Ms. Louise Arbour, Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Conference, and Mr. Erasmo Lara, Director General of Human Rights and Democracy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, in their closing remarks.

The preparatory (stocktaking) meeting closed with an outlook by the co-facilitators on the forthcoming phases of the process. In conclusion, they expressed their appreciation for the meaningful engagement of the international community in the process, which has significantly contributed to an evolving understanding of the 360 degrees of migration and to finding common purpose in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.