

International Migration Review Forum 2022 Informal Interactive Multi-stakeholder Hearing

Monday, 16 May 2022
Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York

Summary Report¹

Introduction

In accordance with paragraph 49(d) of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) (A/RES/73/195), and paragraph 15 of the General Assembly resolution “Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums” (A/RES/73/326), the inaugural Multi-Stakeholder Hearing was organized and presided over by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on 16 May 2022, at UN Headquarters in New York, ahead of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), from 17 to 20 May 2022.

Over 250 participants from all regions (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Arab States, Europe) participated in person at the Hearing, representing a wide range of non-State stakeholders. The format of the Hearing included opening and closing segments, and three thematic discussions. Full statements from all the sessions’ panelists can be found [here](#).

The following summary includes a synopsis of the inputs from the panelists and interventions from the opening segment, first and second thematic discussions, and reflections by informal gender, child, and youth rapporteurs during the Hearing. In particular, this summary attempts to capture the key recommendations for this IMRF as well as the next four years of GCM implementation, especially on:

- addressing gaps in implementation at regional, national and local levels since the inception of the GCM;
- improving the inclusion of all stakeholders, particular migrants themselves, in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM;
- formulating commitments and pledges by stakeholders on further GCM implementation, as well as calls for cooperation on these with Member States;

¹ The summary report was drafted by Mr. Colin Rajah, the civil society representative for the opening of the plenary of the inaugural International Migration Review Forum, in collaboration with Ms. Laurel Townhead, Representative for Human Rights & Refugees, Friends World Committee for Consultation/Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), and Ms. Claudia Lizbeth Interiano Quijada, Regional Coordinator, Fundación para la Justicia/Bloque Latinoamericano.

- developing mechanisms and indicators to measure progress of GCM implementation through the next session of the IMRF; and
- utilizing existing structures within ongoing GCM implementation, as well as formulating new ones fit-for-purpose from these stakeholder recommendations.

Opening segment

The meeting commenced with remarks from President of the General Assembly (PGA), H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid. In his remarks, the PGA highlighted that many of the stakeholders worldwide made invaluable contributions to formulating the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and its implementation. He also underscored that advocating for the “rights of all” is one of the key priorities of his ‘Presidency of Hope’, which includes the rights of migrants, who are often among the world’s most marginalized and vulnerable communities.

In his remarks, the Director General of IOM, as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, H.E. Mr. António Vitorino, began by recognizing the important role – operationally, intellectually, ethically – of stakeholders in migration, especially towards the human rights of migrants, regardless of their status, to be gender-responsive and child-sensitive, to be people-centered and placing migrants at the center of this. He also highlighted the ways where stakeholders have already contributed to the work of the Network in developing tools and guidance, and mobilizing support for the GCM. He further acknowledged the challenges of shrinking civic space, and frustration at the pace of progress, but underlined that when change comes through this, it is profound and has broad support.

The migrant youth representative Moreen Gorial (Migration Youth and Children Platform – MYCP) stated that the migrant community is not one entity, but a rich and diverse collection. She highlighted that the pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerabilities and injustices faced by migrants, and insisted that current GCM implementation is not enough. She urged Member States to utilize the Hearing to take the inputs into action-oriented discussions and agreements, insisting that stakeholders be meaningfully included throughout the IMRF. She also urged governments to fight discrimination, promote migrants’ equal access to human rights and not be criminalized, implement regular pathways, take action for justice against wage theft, enact anti-racism policies and eliminate racial profiling. She acknowledged standing on indigenous ground and that indigenous peoples must be upheld as an intersectional community among migrants. Finally, Ms. Gorial stressed that migrants should be allowed to self-organize, assemble, associate, and self-represent, to meaningfully engage in policies that affect them.

Thematic discussion I: Assessing the progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration

This brief overview cannot capture the richness of the contributions from the panelists and participants. Please see the [webpage](#) to read the presentations and other interventions in full. The recording of the morning session can be watched [here](#) and the recording of the afternoon session can be found [here](#).

Building bridges not walls

With presentations and interventions from all of the 13 stakeholder groups² mentioned in the GCM and in the IMRF modalities resolution, this discussion highlighted the bridges stakeholders are building, between their sectors, with governments, with intergovernmental organisations and, crucially, with migrants. Stakeholders have been central to catalysing GCM progress through partnerships, service delivery, innovation, advocacy and analysis. Many stakeholders were frustrated at the pace of GCM implementation, whilst also championing its possibilities and remaining committed to accelerating its implementation. However, the primary responsibility rests with States, and stakeholders expect more State leadership to build on the progress they shared, close the gaps and find truly human rights based and people-centred responses to the challenges. Stakeholders are a bridge from the world we have now to the world they want to see, and migrants themselves are the keystone.

Recognising those who are not in the room

Speakers remembered migrants who have lost their lives - including friends, family members, co-workers - and acknowledged those who were not in the room with us for many other reasons including because they were unable to get visas to travel, or because they do not think they will be welcomed or heard in these discussions.

Overarching themes

Migration is about people – migration governance needs to be about people

Many speakers focussed on the centrality of safety and dignity, reminding us of the people behind the labels and data, and reminding us that a persons' migration status does not alter or diminish their humanity nor change the fact that they are rights holders. As a result, speakers called for policies that more effectively uphold the human rights of all migrants regardless of status. Speakers highlighted the role of framing, narratives and approaches in perpetuating the dehumanisation of migrants and feeding policies and practices that cause harm and violate

² Migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders (para 44, A/RES/73/195), special procedures mandate holders and treaty bodies (para 7, A/RES/73/326).

human rights. This includes framing that sees migrants only, or primarily as a threat, or which commodify migrants seeing them in terms of their economic benefit. The impacts of the lack of safe, regular pathways are felt not only by migrants but by employers and the wider community.

Human cost of current migration governance remains too high

Experiences, analysis and data were shared that showed that the human cost of not fulfilling the promise of the GCM to put people at the centre of migration governance remains too high. These human costs manifest in many ways for example: pushbacks; barriers to accessing health care services, including vaccination; limitations of freedom of association; use of immigration detention; lack of safe, regular pathways. A thread throughout the interventions was recognition that the impacts of migration governance are not experienced uniformly, and that racism, xenophobia and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination remain rife as one speaker said: GCM implementation should promote racial, gender and intersectional justice.

Nothing about migrants without migrants

Migrants participating in the Hearing were clear in their calls that there should be nothing about them without them. A call echoed in the clear message throughout this thematic discussion that meaningful migrant participation is crucial as well as effective engagement with other stakeholders. Speakers called for safe and enabling environments for engagement, especially for migrants, and examples were shared of how stakeholders are doing this. Examples included donors funding participation; local government opening channels of communication; community media; to creating platforms by migrants, for migrants; National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) facilitating consultation with governments; advocating for freedom of association for all migrants regardless of status; migrant-led events to discuss the GCM, employers calling for regular pathways and dialogues with governments and migrants. These examples and the determination to enhance participation can be built on and can be part of countering restrictions on civic space.

Specific recommendations

Specific recommendations included:

- The United Nations Network on Migration promoting a global campaign on migration, migrants and the GCM, showcasing links with international instruments and other UN efforts and campaigns.
- Expanding the diversity of States covered in research and increasing the availability of research in languages other than English.
- Undertaking participatory processes to develop national GCM implementation plans.

- Enabling local and community media to provide space for content by and for migrants.
- Development of indicators to measure migrant participation, including through the suggested indicators foreseen in the Progress Declaration.
- Putting in place visa programmes for families searching for loved ones who have disappeared or reclaiming remains.
- Providing financial contributions to the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF) to make migrant participation possible and other funding mechanisms.
- Developing a clearer normative framework for protection for those displaced by climate change.
- Consulting cities in the development of national migration and refugee policies, developing joint programmes and financing cities to deliver.
- Enabling meaningful access for cities to future global deliberations, including the 2023 Global Refugee Forum and 2026 IMRF.
- Developing a GCM monitoring framework that has multi-sector stakeholder participation to help foster mutual accountability.
- Providing financial and technical support to GCM Champion countries.
- Building opportunities for dialogue between stakeholders and Member States, drawing on examples like the spaces created by the Co-facilitators of the Progress Declaration, involving both grassroots as well as regional or global advocacy organizations.
- Bringing Parliamentarians together to push for faster progress in implementing the GCM.
- Ensuring freedom of association, the right to organize and collectively bargain for all workers regardless of their immigration status.
- Strengthening the normative framework conducive to just and ethical recruitment.

Summary of key points from panelists

Speaker from **migrant associations** - Ms. Alma Maquitico, Director, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR):

Despite widespread documentation that deterrence-based migration policies have led to increased mortality, trauma, gender-based violence, militarised border governance and securitised approaches are the norm in far too many places. This has devastating consequences for people and their families. Border externalization does not affect all groups equally, racism, xenophobia and other discrimination must be addressed. Migration governance should be rights centred, including through increasing rights respecting migration pathways.

Speaker from **local and regional authorities** - Ms. Marta Suplicy, Head of International Relations, City of São Paulo:

Cities have the de facto responsibility to protect everyone, even when their legal and political mandate to shape migration policy is limited. Innovative, and collaborative solutions to migration often emerge at local level, including building inclusive communities by balancing narratives; promoting the social and economic inclusion of migrants, reducing their vulnerabilities and protecting them from exploitation and harm; and promoting migrant participation. As acknowledged in the Secretary General's report, local governments are key allies in GCM implementation; they have brought 70 pledges and actions to the IMRF collected through the Mayors Mechanism's Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees. With cities' offer of support comes an ask to national governments to consult, partner and include cities.

Speaker from **civil society** - Ms. Helena Olea, Associate Director for Programs, Alianza Americas:

Our voices as organized migrants are essential to this process. Differences in the approach to migration and migrants are one of the greatest challenges. Understanding human mobility as a threat, a force impossible to reckon with, as an adaptive response inherent to the human condition, or as an opportunity, results in very different public policy responses. Implementation of the GCM needs to include discussion and analysis around visions on migration, and their reflection in legal frameworks and public policies. Narratives around migration are fundamental for migration governance. This is a debate in which all stakeholders can contribute, and that should take place at the national level, and afterwards, in the regional consultations and in the IMRF. We must make the GCM be known and used.

Speaker from **migrant and diaspora organizations** - Ms. Paddy Siyanga Knudsen, Vice-President, Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT):

GCM implementation is still a work in progress. Since Feb 2022, an additional stress test for the GCM has been millions of Ukrainians and foreign nationals fleeing their homes with few doors remaining intentionally open for “Third Country Nationals” who have spent years of their lives in universities, workplaces and cities of Ukraine, which they called home. Governments and International Organisations working together with these stakeholders, particularly from diaspora and grassroots, has a potential catalytic impact on policy and practice of migration management by States.

Speaker from **academia** - Ms. Jill Goldenziel, Representative, Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS):

Research suggests that the priorities in the SG’s report reflect key gaps and challenges in the implementation of the GCM, but much more research is needed. Drawing from academic research briefs on 7 recommendations from the SG’s report can draw four core conclusions: Migrant health is public health; sector specific and collaborative migration policies should be encouraged; restrictive deterrence-based migration policies do not work, they can push migrants into irregular pathways; need more data and research. Current data and research is mainly in English and focuses on a small number of countries. Data is foundational for GCM implementation and academics can help.

Speaker from the **private sector** - Ms. Juliana Manrique, Director Labour, Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia (ANDI):

The private sector is an important stakeholder in the issue of global labour migration and should therefore be taken into account in the GCM process and implementation. Highlighting four priorities and challenges: (1) need for predictable and transparent legal frameworks to allow for movement of migrants at the time and place needed; (2) need for a normative framework conducive to just and ethical recruitment; (3) skills development, skills recognition and skills validation frameworks that are responsive to labour market realities, including skills acquired through informal learning; (4) use of technology and innovative solutions, the pandemic showed the urgent need for digital transformation in all migration processes. Dialogue between business, government and workers is needed to address these challenges.

Speaker from **trade unions** - Ms. Shannon Lederer, Director of Immigration Policy, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL–CIO):

There is a need for sweeping changes to fix the economic and political systems, a need for a new social contract that ensures equality, inclusion, climate friendly jobs, rights for all workers, and universal social protection, with no exclusions. Temporary labour migration programmes must not be positioned as a false solution to origin country development or to humanitarian crises. There is a need to increase regularisation and regular pathways, noting that not all regular pathways are safe or fair. States must respect their obligation under international labour standards to protect the freedom of association, right to organize and collectively bargain for all workers regardless of their immigration status.

Speaker from **parliamentarians** - Ambassador Qazi Shaukat Fareed, Permanent Observer to the United Nations, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM):

The Mediterranean region is a migratory crossroads and the deadliest migratory route in the world. Objective 8 of the GCM, to save lives, remains a top priority which strongly believes in the principle of “No migrant left behind”, for which it believes in the absolute necessity of working together to ensure protection of the rights of all categories of migrants, regardless of their status. Parliamentarians from the region are engaging their governments directly to develop policies for safe, regular and orderly migration; using Parliamentary diplomacy to promote better understanding and develop a united and common vision on how to address migration related issues and sharing lessons learned on legislative actions and best practices among its membership so these actions can be replicated.

Speaker from **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)** - Ms. Patricia Bárcena, Deputy to the Defensor del Pueblo of Spain:

National Human Rights Institutions are bridges between civil society (including migrants) and national authorities ensure that the voices of migrants are heard and that their experiences on the ground are taken into account and bridges between the international system and national systems to protect human rights. The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANRHI)’s consultation ahead of the IMRF found three key priorities: (i) Participatory national action plans (noting the role of NHRIs reviewing existing policies and practices); (ii) Follow-up accountability and national review; (iii) Dissemination. It is important to hear the voice of migrants as well as those institutions and organizations defending human rights of migrants under threats and pressure, including NHRI that are also suffering this kind of harassment and threats.

Speaker from **faith-based organizations** - Mr. Stephane Jaquemet, Director of Policy, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC):

Seven of the GCM's guiding principles align closely with the priorities of faith-based organisations but, in practice, and despite the strong humane dimension of the GCM, many States spend seven more times on erecting walls and restrictions than on building bridges and safe pathways. The COVID-19 pandemic was a defining moment for being true to the Global Compact's commitments and there is no evidence that we have collectively "passed the test". The Global Compact on Migration is not the Progress Declaration, but what governments and all of us stakeholders do at the local and national levels on a daily basis. And this is where we will all be held accountable.

Speaker from **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** - Ms. Tiziana Bonzon, Head of Climate, Migration, and Displacement, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:

Priorities for IFRC: First, scale up support to persons at risk of displacement related to disasters and the climate crisis, including taking action before communities are displaced through disaster risk reduction measures, climate-smart adaptation, anticipatory action, and resilience-building initiatives; Second, ensure that all migrants, irrespective of status, have access to essential services at all stages of their journeys, including access to assistance and protection, shelter, food, health services, psychosocial support services, water, information, and COVID-19 related services; Third, include migrants in all levels of decision-making, especially when those decisions influence programmes that directly affect migrant communities.

Speaker from **media** - Mr. Daoud Kuttab, Journalist, Community Media Network, Jordan:

Media and especially community media can do a lot to help migrants. The key is to make sure that migrants have a sense of ownership because people are the best experts on their own lives. We would encourage member states to reduce financial and bureaucratic restrictions facing the establishment and the work of community media which is among the most feasible and effective outlets for giving voice to and by migrants.

Speaker from **Human Rights Mechanisms** - Mr. Edgar Corzo Sosa, Chair, Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families:

Between the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the principle of complementarity should prevail, as a basis for the progress that both international instruments can achieve. Another principle that should govern the relationship between the International Convention and the Global Compact and that is at the base of the gap that prevails

between both instruments is that of convergence, since it is necessary to find the points in common of both international instruments, leaving aside the possible divergences that may exist, seeking the greatest possible synergies. Finally, ensuring that the implementation and monitoring of the Global Compact places people and their rights at the center is a major challenge. To achieve this, it is necessary to reread the Global Compact from a human rights perspective in four dimensions.

Thematic discussion II: Commitments to advance the implementation of the GCM including in advancing the recommendations of the Secretary-General Report

Civil society from all regions want to ensure that people are always at the center of all actions and policies. The soul of civil society work is embodied in the everyday, direct work on the ground in each country of origin, transit and destination. We also work in the defense of human rights, as people who dignify work in each region of the world. We have fully committed ourselves from the beginning of the consultation process to support migrants, indigenous peoples, Member States and the United Nations system through a series of contributions that continue to be relevant to us and in which we are working.

It is important to ground principles within the review of the Global Compact³, including those of transparency, inclusion, a differentiated approach, diversity, psychosocial aspects, and a transnational approach. This also includes ensuring participation of the voices of those who are working on the ground for the dignity of migrants and respect for their human rights, and taking into account the expertise that they have developed by working directly to minimize situations of migrants' vulnerability at all levels.

It is important for the implementation of the Global Compact for Member States to go beyond the approaches of "isolated projects according to financing opportunities". It is necessary to invest public resources in initiatives that transparently consolidate these dynamics. The space for reviewing the implementation of the Global Compact must be a space for accountability of Member States and for international cooperation for human rights.

The UN must be the space to build reference for, and action frameworks with the highest human rights standards, and the Progress Declaration that will result from the first IMRF should reflect that. This is so that when it is implemented, it responds to the needs of the migrants, their families, their communities, all migrant workers in the world, and those of us who defend human

³ Regional reviews of the GCM - Reports and summaries from stakeholder consultations are available online: Africa review - see [here](#); Arab States - see [here](#) (Annex I, II, III); Asia and the Pacific - see [here](#); Europe and North America - see [here](#); Latin America and the Caribbean - see [here](#).

rights together with them. The Progress Declaration must be ambitious, implementable and measurable.

In all regions, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a reality that changed the way we see the world. But this does not imply that there may be a setback in human rights. As civil society, we continue to work on the ground from the local, the municipal, the regional, the global and international, often with very few resources of all kinds, doing everything to be able to collaborate and continue working from our commitment as a society in a world that will not stop migrating.

There is a need for transnational cooperation between Member States, from the national to the regional, bilateral, and international levels that requires the re-definition of national security for the benefit of people, and for the protection of their rights. It should acknowledge that we have a significant weakening of the international protection system, systematic pushbacks at the borders, rapid deportations, arrests of children and adolescents, disappearances at the borders at sea and on land, massacres, and other serious human rights violations against migrants, without any type of international protection from a psychosocial, gender perspective, or the best interest of girls, boys and adolescents.

We are in a context in which recruitment processes have been accentuated in exploitative processes that include high recruitment costs, and abuses in the workplace, such as the restriction of the movement of workers, massive cases of wage theft, forced overtime, substandard housing, harassment, discrimination, lack of access to services and social protections, injuries, lack of access to justice, and physical or verbal abuse. Migrant workers are often separated from their families for years and are often excluded from social protections. They are denied the right to organize and bargain collectively. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these injustices where migrant workers have been massively repatriated, displaced, stranded, sick and abandoned, and were forced to return to their countries of origin, mostly with empty hands. Most of them came from the construction sector, domestic work, manufacturing and hospitality.

Given this, we recommend the following:

- Implement specific public policies for the rights of migrants, at all stages of migration (departure, transit and destination) and make these policies consistent with each other and appropriate to the ambitions of the GCM.
- Deal head-on, and without hesitation, with the issues of concern, in particular the issues of regularization, deportation, militarization of borders, racism and xenophobia, the detention of children, etc. Such actions must be made in accordance with multilateral approaches respecting international instruments and the principles and values that prevailed during the GCM negotiations.

- Strengthen transparency in the formulation, management, implementation and follow-up of the GCM, through work plans from countries of origin, transit and destination that reflect compliance with the principles and objectives of the GCM, and through indicators. These processes must be meaningful and results-based. The UN Network on Migration and its member organizations must continue to work with governments and relevant stakeholders on the ground throughout the year.
- Utilize multi-stakeholder spaces that empower Civil Society to support better formulation of indicators and other measures of change for the monitoring, evaluation, utilization, and exchange of experiences around the Global Compact.
- Contribute towards the initiatives of civil society actors, guaranteeing their independence in monitoring the GCM.
- Comply with international human rights and labor rights standards to end the sponsorship system, which is a form of modern-day slavery.
- Member States' should respect their obligations under international labor standards to protect the workers' freedom of association, the right to organize and collectively bargain, and engage in the social dialogue for all workers without discrimination and regardless of their immigration status.
- We urge Member States and the international community to establish an International Claims Commission, managed jointly by the ILO and the IOM and with the participation of civil society, which will address the complaints, claims and labor disputes of workers who are victims of wage theft, and provide equitable remedies. We also urge the UN Network and its members, collectively, to support the creation of a Compensation Fund for the ICC, under the auspices of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPF) to respond to claims of wage theft. Alongside this, Member States should institute reforms in their respective justice systems to be more expedited, accessible, affordable, and efficient
- We recommend that there be a structured, whole-of-government, whole-of-society exchange on the experience of regularization mechanisms implemented in many regions and States, both before and during the COVID-19 response and recovery, to examine their contribution to sustainable solutions in economic and human development, integration, formal employment and economies.
- States can draw on the Action Committee's "[12 Key Ways](#)" paper, which lists nine components of regularization laws and programs based on the experience of civil society

in various regions of the world, in working with governments in regularization programs (including clear criteria for eligibility, accessibility, independence and security, and residence permits).

- We recommend that various stakeholders – national and local governments, civil society and researchers, WHO and other health professional bodies – work together to ensure that undocumented immigrants can safely access health care services, to ensure that the potential of the GCM is adequately fulfilled.
- We recommend moving forward to analyze both the challenges and the progress made in ending child detention. In that, Member States should work closely with civil society. This could also be through a peer learning mechanism.
- Intensify cooperation with countries of origin and transit to address the drivers of forced migration and develop better, more just and regular pathways, requiring the elimination of temporary pathways (circular, sponsorship or guest worker).
- Dedicate state resources and border management to fighting trafficking and holding smugglers to account, rather than criminalizing irregular migrants, who instead must be protected and have full access to services, and justice.
- Create new social protection systems for migrants that include portable social security, compensation for termination of service, pensions and maternity funds, and provide them with health insurance, safety and health at work, protection against occupational diseases, and compensation for work accidents.
- Fight discrimination, xenophobia, and gender-based harassment, and promote racial justice.
- Regularize unregulated sectors, where many migrant workers are concentrated.
- Create an environment that would be conducive for a constructive tripartite dialogue which includes migrant workers.
- Access to justice must be addressed in cases of serious human rights violations anywhere in the world. The massacres against migrants or any other person must end. The United Nations Network must support the establishment of a special commission to investigate massacres against migrants, such as the ones which took place in Cadereyta and San Fernando in 2010 and 2011 and in Camargo in 2021.

- For civil society, it is also essential to protect human rights defenders who work for the rights of migrants. It is essential that the resources of the State be used to support concrete actions to develop and strengthen the capacities of these human rights defenders working in each sector, but together for the benefit of society, and to eradicate the criminalization of human rights defenders.

We appreciate all the efforts made by the UN Network on Migration to engage stakeholders in the dialogue on migration. The whole-of-society approach must be improved to engage migrants in this dialogue because nothing about migrants can be done without them. There are strong challenges related to transparency, accountability and efficiency for the implementation of GCM, and no single actor can achieve this by collaborating with other stakeholders. We cannot expect significant changes in global migration governance if we do not change the ways we do things. We must challenge and push back to enable all stakeholders, particularly migrant workers, migrant women, and families of missing migrants, to fully and meaningfully participate in the process.

Annex I

Gender Rapporteur Statement (Women in Migration Network - WIMN)

At the kind invitation of the coordinating group, a team from WIMN has been observing today's forum as gender rapporteurs. We welcome the diversity of voices and the powerful description of realities, with concrete recommendations for ways forward.

Our assessment is that we are still not meeting the challenge of taking a gender-responsive approach to migration, or to implementation of the GCM. We see it in State responses but also amongst civil society today. Through most of the interesting and relevant interventions we have heard today, we have heard descriptions of the situations of migrants as if they were largely homogenous, lacking attention to gender and other intersecting forms of discrimination.

We recognise that speakers faced strict time limits, but this demonstrates that gender and other elements of migrants' lived realities is broadly overlooked. As long as gender remains the focus only of dedicated/focused groups with little wider effort to address gender-differentiated experiences of migration, we will be failing to effectively realise safe, regular and orderly migration for all.

I want to thank speakers today for naming critical systemic issues related to migration, including climate change, labor rights, rights-based regular pathways, the need for regularization programs and access to services regardless of status, and a shift from criminalization and enforcement to human rights-centered policy. WIMN is a member of the [Global Coalition on Migration](#), and these concerns are also reflected in our 2022 [Spotlight Report](#) available this week. **When we talk about a gender-responsive Global Compact, what we mean is exploring *these core systemic issues* through a gender and racial justice lens, not as a siloed issue.**

As we move into the IMRF tomorrow, WIMN wants to note our concern that **women migrants and their contributions have almost been erased in the Progress Declaration (PD)**. Despite our efforts, there is not even a stand-alone paragraph on migrant women. Moreover, the PD perpetuates victimization rhetoric when women migrants are mentioned. States must recognize migrant women's agency and leadership, avoiding tokenization or so-called "protection" that places women in more vulnerable situations. Migrant women are not **only** "victims" of gender-based violence. Migrant women are not only workers, while rights at work are a priority concern for us. Migrant women are not only connected to children, as the way women frequently are referenced in the Progress Declaration.

We welcome the voices and experiences of migrant women here today. We thank IDWF, APWLD, Solidarity Center for migration gender and justice and others who directly addressed the realities of migrant women in today's forum. These migrant women's voices need to be engaged in assessing migration policies going forward and in setting gender, race, labor rights, climate and other indicators for GCM implementation.

Going forward,

- Gender-responsive policy needs to be reflected across **all elements of migration policy** (and related labor, economic, finance, climate, development policy). And this should not be an afterthought.

- We need to focus on national policy plans from a gender perspective and strengthen regional coherence and collaboration with a strong role for civil society, including migrant women's organizations.
- We need to include gender and race indicators among indicators to be elaborated, and processes for assessment of national plans with these factors in consideration.

Finally, we want to thank the UN Network, and the stakeholder liaison office of the Network, Monami and Alix, for their dedication in helping to build a very diverse, inclusive Stakeholder's forum, and for the strong leadership of women in our diversity in this space, which has been very welcome. Thank you for all of your efforts.

Annex II

Child Rights Rapporteur Statement (Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts)

As Director General Vitorino reminded us at the beginning of this meeting, child sensitivity is one of the GCM guiding principles. The GCM has the potential to make a positive difference – but only if we make a concerted effort and put children at the very heart of migration governance, policies and responses.

As it has been raised a couple of times today, too little GCM implementation is focused on children, and much more needs to be done.

During the discussion, some key issues have been raised,

- particularly in relation to the immigration detention of children and as it has been pointed out very clearly: Immigration detention is NEVER in the best interests of the child. Some examples of good practices have emerged for alternatives but the push back in the language of the Progress Declaration still tells us that much needs to be done. We would like to encourage all of us to continue working to end this practice.
- As mentioned today, the protection of children needs to be mainstreamed across all actions, including on data and the need for specific child focussed indicators.
- Regularisation, documentation and regular pathways have been raised many times, including to avoid statelessness of children. We cannot stress enough how important this is for children, particularly when it comes to avoid family separation and support family reunification which is sadly becoming more restrictive.
- Children's protection needs to be guaranteed at each stage of their journey, cross border collaboration, including between cities and parliaments, can make a difference in children's protection.
- Children need to be able to access appropriate reception and services, including healthcare and education without fear.
- and sustainable solutions including integration and inclusion must have the best interests of the child at heart and respond to their needs.

Many today have raised the importance of meaningful participation of migrants. We need to remember that this includes children. Unfortunately, we missed the voices of children today. We encourage all stakeholders to keep up the commitment to safeguard the best interests of the children throughout the next 4 days discussion at the forum. We need to put in place mechanisms for children to participate and

commit to it and resource it. For one thing, wouldn't it be fantastic if children have a seat at the next regional and global discussions and they are informed by a wide consultation with even more children. Children are the experts of their own experiences and are actors of change. We will not be able to achieve positive change if we don't listen to children and unless we have their best interests at the heart of responses.

Annex III

Youth Rapporteur Statement (Migration Youth and Children Platform - MYCP)

Children and their best interests are still not being upheld. Michele Leoy demonstrated this clearly with the detention language in the Progress Declaration. But there's an important link in that detained and trafficked migrant children quickly become youth whose ability to live fulfilled lives and contribute to society are unfairly affected by their traumatic experiences, their lack of protection now creating distrust in authorities and institutions, their lack of access to education.

I reflect on the distinction between youth and children that continues within migration policy and rhetoric- what about those that are still children- 15, 16, 17, but who look older? Many current policies, as pointed out by a colleague earlier, also seem to forget that children, for whom many states loudly talk about their best interest, rapidly become youth where their best interests seem to be quickly forgotten.

I want to thank stakeholder colleagues, particularly in the global south, who have pointed out the importance of youth as a growing demographic and particularly, those asking questions such as 'why must we be subject to such trauma to warrant protection?'

Youth is cross-cutting, youth are not just children but also migrant workers, they are also those relying on remittances, and issues such as detention, criminalisation, lack of regular pathways, and wage theft are issues that affect youth as well- we do not exist in a silo to be empowered. All migrants and their rights must be protected and uplifted for the youth of tomorrow to achieve our SDGs.

My final point is to reflect on the lack of youth and young migrants present in the room today. There are just a handful of us who managed to receive a visa and funding to attend today. The reality is that issues affecting youth and young migrants are still being discussed without them in the room, and we need rapid investment in ensuring youth, especially migrants, and similar community groups can meaningfully participate.