

Side event at the UN General Assembly

Regional Perspectives on the Global Compact on Migration

Organized by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh and
ESCAP on behalf of the UN Regional Economic Commissions

1300-1430hrs, 22 September 2017

at CR-9, UN headquarters, New York

Concept Note

Background

The Member States of the United Nations have committed to negotiating and adopting a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to “set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions, make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration, present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility, deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration, and be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and informed by the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development adopted in October 2013”.

In preparation for this process, A/RES/71/280 “[r]equests the regional economic commissions and invites their subregional offices, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly the International Organization for Migration, to organize discussions among States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to examine regional and subregional aspects of international migration and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates, to the preparatory process of the global compact.”

This call comes in recognition of the regional specificities of international migration, the intra-regional nature of much migration and the concomitant importance of regional initiatives to ensure dialogue on migration and develop methods to manage migration. For example, whereas most migration in Africa is intra-regional, most migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean move outside the region. Migrants from the Asia-Pacific are primarily labour migrants, who move both within the region and beyond, primarily to the Arab region. Finally, Europe is primarily a destination of migrants both from other European countries and from other regions. However,

many countries in the world have become simultaneously countries of origin, destination and transit. A consideration of regional specificities can help to ensure that the final Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is comprehensive in its approach, addressing the many different migration situations around the world.

In response to this call, the regional commissions of the United Nations are working to prepare regional discussions on migration. This side event will provide representatives of these regional commissions to update participants on the progress of their regional preparations; discuss inter-regional migration issues; receive feedback from member States on their regional processes; and to discuss regional avenues for follow-up of the discussions.

Tentative Agenda

The event will be convened on 22 September 2017 at CR9 at the UN headquarters during 1300-1430 hrs.

The organizers of the side-event expect it to follow a roundtable discussion format comprising the high officials or permanent representatives of select member states, including the two co-facilitators of the Global Compact, as well as senior officials of UN agencies including the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General (SRSG) on Migration, the Director-General of IOM, the chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions of the United Nations (viz. ESCAP, ECA, ECLAC, ECE, ESCWA), each sharing their perspectives on the Global Compact.