



PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF SPAIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 07 June 2019

Excellency,

We write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators to the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations to determine the precise modalities and organizational aspects of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and articulate how the contributions of the regional review and other relevant process will inform the Forums, as means to strengthen the overall effectiveness and the consistency of the follow-up and review outlined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Paragraph-49 of the same Compact further envisioned IMRF as a global platform where Member States would be able to review its implementation progress and guide the direction of the United Nation's work.

As announced earlier, we are pleased to forward here with a zero-draft titled “**Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums**” for your kind consideration (copy enclosed). The first informal inter-governmental consultation on this draft will be taking place on next Tuesday, 11 June 2019 at Conference Room-2 at the United Nations Headquarters from 10:15 am – 01:00 pm and 03:15 pm to 06:00 pm.

We look forward to continuing working closely with you to ensure constructive intergovernmental negotiations and positive outcome, while we remain at your disposal for any clarification on the process.

Ambassador H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen
(Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the
United Nations in New York)

Ambassador H.E. Mr. Agustin Santos Maraver
(Permanent Representative of Spain to the United
Nations in New York)

**All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York**

Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums

The General Assembly,

PP1. Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development², the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,³

PP2. Recalling also its resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018, by which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in Marrakech on 10 and 11 December 2018,

PP3. Reaffirming that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Global Compact) presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework, fostering international cooperation among all relevant actors on migration, acknowledging that no State can address migration alone, and upholding the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law (based on 73/195, para 7),

PP4. Reaffirming also that the Global Compact is based on the following set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles; people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach. (based on 73/195, para 15)

PP5. Affirming that for the effective implementation of the Global Compact we require concerted efforts at the global, regional, national and local levels, including a coherent United Nations system, (based on 73/195, para 40)

PP6. Affirming also that the Global Compact will be implemented through a revitalized global partnership, in a spirit of solidarity, building on existing mechanisms, platforms and frameworks to address migration in all its dimensions, (based on 73/195, para 42)

PP7. Reiterating our appreciation to the Secretary-General for deciding to establish a United Nations network on migration (network) to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support for implementation, as well as follow-up and review of the Global Compact, in response to the needs of Member States, (based on 73/195, para 45)

PP8. Recalling our commitment to review the progress made at the local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, (based on 73/195, para 48)

¹ Resolution 70/1.

² Resolution 69/313, annex

³ Resolution 71/1

PP9. Recalling that the International Migration Review Forum (forum) shall serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, (based on 73/195, para 49)

PP10. Recalling also our request to the President of the General Assembly to articulate how contributions of the regional reviews and other relevant processes will inform the forums and further strengthen overall effectiveness and consistency of the follow-up and review of the Global Compact. (based on 73/195, para 54)

PP11. Reiterating our invitation to relevant sub-regional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations regional economic commissions or regional consultative processes, to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, beginning in 2020, alternating with discussions at the global level at a four-year interval, in order to effectively inform each edition of the Forum, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, (based on 73/195, para 50)

PP12. Reiterating also our encouragement to all Member States to develop, as soon as practicable, ambitious national responses for the implementation of the Global Compact, and to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level, such as through the voluntary elaboration and use of a national implementation plan, drawing on contributions from all relevant stakeholders, (based on 73/195, para 53)

PP13. Recalling further our request to the Secretary-General, drawing on the network, to report to the General Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Global Compact, the activities of the United Nations system in this regard, as well as the functioning of the institutional arrangements, (based on 73/195, para 46).

^[1] Resolution 70/1.

^[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.

^[3] Resolution 71/1.

1. *The forum shall be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and chaired by the President of the UN General Assembly.*
2. *It shall take place during the first semester of the year 2022, and thereafter every four years at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.*
3. *The Forum will last for three days.*
4. *The Forum shall be open for participation by all States Members of the United Nations and all members of specialized agencies that have observer status with the UN General Assembly. [based on 71/280, op3]*
5. *Invites Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level [70/290, op2]*
6. *Reiterates the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders in the forum and invites non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as all relevant stakeholders accredited to the preparatory process of the intergovernmental negotiations of the Global Compact, or accredited to participate in the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the Forum.*
7. *Requests the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, trade unions, migrant and youth organizations and, diaspora communities, who may attend and participate in the forum, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and with due regard to the meaningful participation of women and to submit to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis, no later than three months before the Forum⁴ [based on 71/280, para 6c].*
8. *Encourages Member States to ensure diverse delegations, as appropriate. These may include parliamentarians, representatives from National Human Rights Institutions and sub-national, including local actors in their national delegations for the forum.*
9. *Requests the network to assist, as needed, in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact.*
10. *Invites the United Nations regional economic commissions, in accordance with their respective mandates and within existing resources, with support of the network, to bring together relevant sub-regional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including regional consultative processes on migration, to review the*

⁴ The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

implementation of the Global Compact, on a voluntary basis, and to contribute to the work of the Forum, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, as appropriate. (based on 67/290, para 13, 73/195, para 50)

11. Invites Global Forum on Migration and Development to provide a space for informal exchanges on the implementation of the Global Compact, and report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the forum. (73/195, para 51)

12. Invites also other State-led initiatives on international migration, such as the IOM International Dialogue on Migration, regional consultative processes on migration and others to contribute to the forum by providing relevant data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to the implementation of the Global Compact. (73/195, para 52)

13. Requests the network, in preparation for the forum, to collect all inputs received from national, regional and global levels.

14. Requests the network to develop, as part of the global knowledge platform, a dedicated website featuring inputs submitted by Member States and other relevant stakeholders to the forum.

15. Requests the Secretary-General, when reporting to the General Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Global Compact, drawing on the network, to also include a concise, evidence-based analysis, identifying opportunities and challenges, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations, including funding consideration, to effectively implement the Global Compact, as well as to provide guidance for the envisaged policy debate during the third day of the forum as part of the biennial report preceding each forum and to make the report available at least six weeks ahead of the forum.

16. Requests the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for each forum.

17. Requests the President of the General Assembly to organize and to preside over one day of informal interactive multi stakeholder hearings prior to each forum with representatives of nongovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, parliaments, diasporas, migrants, migrant organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, and also requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings prior to each forum (based on 71/280, op30, 67/219, op11);

18. Welcomes the establishment of the Start-Up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Migration MPTF), for initial financing to realize project-oriented solutions that support efforts of Member States to implement the Global Compact, and encourages Member States, the United Nations, international financial institutions and other stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic foundations, to consider providing voluntary financial contributions to the Migration MPTF. (source: Terms of Reference of the migration MPTF, see also 73/195 para 43b)

19. Requests the Secretary-General to facilitate the participation of developing countries, the least developed countries, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the work of the forum, and in this regard invites Member States, financial institutions and other organizations to contribute to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (based on 67/290, op24);

20. Each edition of forum shall consist of plenary and several parallel interactive multi-stakeholders' roundtables.

21. The plenary shall be divided into opening session, general debate and a closing session.

22. The opening session of plenary shall feature statements from the President of the General Assembly (as the Chair of the Forum), the Secretary-General, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, in his capacity as the Coordinator for the network, one representative from the migrant community and one from civil society.

23. In the general debate, Member States and the observer States shall deliver their national statements. The list of speakers will be established in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practices of the Assembly, and the time limit for these statements will be four minutes.

24. Encourage Member States to present the result of their reviews of progress in implementing the Global Compact, drawing on contributions from all relevant stakeholders, on a voluntary basis, as a part of their national statements.

25. The President of the General Assembly will deliver closing remarks, which will include a summary of the plenary debate.

26. During the first two days of the Forum, in parallel to the plenary, four consecutive interactive roundtables will offer space for discussion covering all 23 objectives of the Global Compact with the aim of reviewing the implementation progress made at all levels.

27. All 23 objectives of the Global Compact shall be covered in the following way:

(i) Thematic Cluster-I: Drivers of migration, pre-departure decision making and increasing predictability and certainty of migration

(ii) Thematic Cluster-II: Migration movements- the journey, arrival, return and reintegration of migrants

(iii) Thematic Cluster-III: Inclusion and social cohesions

(iv) Thematic Cluster-IV: Impacts of migration in countries of origin, transit and destinations

28. Each interactive, multi-stakeholder round table will be co-chaired by two Member State representatives, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, with due regard for geographical and gender balance, in consultation with regional groups (based on 67/219, op 3(d));

29. Request the Secretary-General, with input from the network, to prepare a background note for each roundtable to be circulated at least six weeks prior to the forum.
30. Adequate space may be reserved during each roundtable for participation of non-governmental stakeholders and representatives of regional processes, platforms and organization.
31. Each roundtable shall result in a technical summary prepared by the co-chairs.
32. On the morning of the third day, in a session parallel to the plenary, the co-chairs will present the technical summaries.
33. On the afternoon of the third day, in a session parallel to the plenary, the Director General of the IOM, in his/her capacity as coordinator of the network, will be invited to facilitate a policy debate focusing on identifying challenges to implementation progress, highlighting the intrinsic links between the Global Compact and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and guiding both the forum and the United Nations system on contemporary, evolving or frontier issues related to migration, in connection with those issues highlighted by the Secretary General in his respective report.
34. The roundtables and the policy debate shall be interactive, evidence based, and action oriented in nature, with participation of all relevant stakeholders.
35. The technical summaries of the four round tables, as well as the summary of the policy debate, will be distributed within 10 working days following the conclusion of each forum by the President of the General Assembly.
36. Requests the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators ahead of each edition of the Forum to conduct open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiations with all Member States, beginning immediately after the forum, with a view to agreeing on an outcome document for each forum;
37. The intergovernmental negotiations shall be concluded no later than two months after each edition of the forum in order to elaborate a brief and concise inter-governmentally agreed progress declaration which may be taken into consideration by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
38. Requests the Secretary-General, drawing on the network, to provide support to the co-facilitators.
39. Inputs received ahead of the forum from all levels and, in particular, the biennial report of the Secretary-General preceding each forum, as well as summaries from the roundtables and the policy debate, shall serve as the basis for the elaboration of the Progress Declaration.
40. The Progress Declaration shall be brief, concise, evidence based and action oriented and shall contain:
- (i) an evaluation of the overall progress made with respect to the implementation of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact at all levels,

(ii) an identification of the key challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the Global Compact, and the scope for further international cooperation on international migration,

(iii) recommendations from the policy debate on the implementation of the Global Compact, including funding, and its links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as possible guidance for the United Nations System to strengthen its efforts in improving the system-wide effectiveness and coherence and in supporting Member States in implementing Global Compact.

41. The summaries of the plenary meetings, the technical summaries of the interactive roundtables, and the policy debate shall be annexed to the Progress Declaration.
