



Global Migration Group (GMG) Retreat – Working Level 12- 14 February 2018 Concept Note and Agenda

1. Introduction

This is a Concept Note for the Annual GMG Strategic Retreat, scheduled to take place 12-14 February 2018 in New York. The Concept Note sets out the main objectives and expected outcome of the retreat, which is the Work Plan for 2018, especially in view of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM) process.

The retreat is organized thanks to the support of the Swiss Development Cooperation.

2. Background

Since its establishment in 2006, the Global Migration Group (GMG) has helped promote international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, encouraging the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to migration.

2018 will be a crucial year for global migration governance, as it will see the adoption of both the global compact on refugees and the global compact for migration (GCM). The latter will be adopted at an intergovernmental conference on international migration to be held in Morocco on 10 and 11 December 2018.

Operative paragraph 13 of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants explicitly acknowledges the GMG as a source of technical advice and support to the upcoming intergovernmental negotiations, leading to the adoption of the GCM in 2018. In particular, the GMG has been called upon by the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on International Migration (O-SRSG) to support the development of a GCM that is balanced and framed around the overwhelmingly positive experience of migration; and to contribute to unpacking specific issues/areas as needed from the SG Report and the zero draft of the Global Compact (as and if agreed with the OSRSG and the GCM Co-facilitators).

The priorities for the FAO/IOM co-chairmanship of the GMG in 2018 include:

- i) Support the process leading to the conclusion and adoption of the GCM;
- ii) increase and improve the interactions between the GMG and UN Member States, including through stronger collaboration with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD);
- iii) Strengthen the sense of partnership and trust within the Group and improve its internal and external communication capabilities;
- iv) Highlight the link between migration, agriculture, rural development and food security; and
- v) Enhance the added value of the GMG for Member States and other stakeholders, both as a collective entity and in its constituent parts.

3. Justification for the Retreat

Between 2013 and 2017, GMG strategic retreats have been conducted on a yearly basis to agree on the strategic priorities and work programme for the year and discuss a wide range of issues, ranging from

GMG reform and internal working methods (in 2013), to external partnerships and collaboration (e.g. between the GMG and the GFMD) and the role of GMG in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Financing for Development, G-20, the 19 September 2016 Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, and the consultation and stock-taking phases of the GCM process.

In 2018, the GMG strategic retreat will be conducted at the working level. The conclusions will be shared and items will be submitted for discussion to the Principals meeting in April 2018. The retreat will focus on the contribution of the GMG to the negotiations towards the adoption of the GCM, taking into account the outcomes of the consultation phase held between April-October 2017, the SG's Report, "*Making migration work for all*", and the zero draft of the GCM. As the GCM negotiation phase unfolds¹, it will be important for the GMG to stand ready to provide all necessary support to Member States, the President of the General Assembly, as well as the UN Secretary General and the Special Representative on International Migration.

4. Objectives and outcomes of the GMG Retreat

The overall objective of the GMG retreat is to agree on the most meaningful and effective way to support the process leading to the conclusion and adoption of the GCM, taking into account the recommendations relevant to the GMG arising from the consultations and stocktaking phases of the GCM, as well as the Secretary General's Report and the zero draft of the GCM.

For that support to be effective, as a group, the GMG should act in a timely manner, and operate as a coordinated platform that "delivers as one" and that represents the "voice of the UN" on migration issues. The retreat will be part of joint FAO-IOM efforts, as co-chairs of the GMG in 2018, to enhance partnerships, trust-building and communication, internally within the GMG, but also externally.

4.1 Specific Objectives

a) Stimulate technical discussions on substantive issues requiring further elaboration emerging from the SG Report and the Zero Draft of the GCM

The stocktaking meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (4-6 December 2017) highlighted important and controversial issues, for example, on regular pathways and regularization, innovative mechanisms to better manage and harness the benefits of circular and seasonal migration, issues on return and re-admission, and ensuring a human rights-based and gender sensitive approach.

b) Agree on concrete ways to support the process and success of the GCM

The GMG needs to prepare itself to be able to engage and play the most effective role in support of the GCM process, including to be able to provide technical advice at short notice.

Following the suggestion by the O-SRSG, specific attention will be paid to the role that GMG can play in raising awareness on the GCM process, the Secretary General's Report, the zero draft and its subsequent iterations. Options to be discussed include dissemination of documents, organization of briefings, seminars or workshops and outreach to governments or other key stakeholders.

The retreat will enable the group to agree on the best working modalities to support the negotiations, and to help maintain the momentum between the conclusion of the negotiations in July and the adoption of the GCM in December.

¹ Negotiations on the GCM begin on 20 February and are scheduled to end on 13 July, coinciding with the first week of the High Level Political Forum/HLPF.

In addition, as appropriate, the GMG may wish to develop a reflections paper later in the year when the outcome of the GCM and the Secretary General's internal consultations on how best to configure the UN System are known².

c) Explore means of generating broader understanding of and engagement in the GCM among Member States

The GMG can play an important role not only in the development of the GCM, but most of all in supporting Member States in understanding the implications of and translating official commitments into concrete actions and results at regional and national level, ensuring the adequate involvement also of private sector, migrants and diaspora; and the alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To be discussed are concrete ways to improve communication and interactions with States (e.g. through mechanisms such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development), and to enhance the GMG's added value to states and other stakeholders, both as a collective and in its constituent parts, supporting the efforts of individual states, regional bodies, and regional and global consultative processes.

Moreover, the GMG can discuss concrete ways in which it could support and monitor the implementation of the GCM at regional and national level and the achievement of the SDG targets, including through joint actions to improve evidence generation and planning for implementation at country level.

c) Set the annual agenda of the work of GMG for 2018

During the retreat, GMG members will define the GMG Priorities and Work Plan for 2018, based on the proposals by the GMG co-chairs (FAO and IOM).

i. Priorities for 2018:

- Engaging with the Office of the President of the General Assembly (O-PGA) the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on International Migration and the co facilitators to best support the process;
- Collection and consolidation of technical inputs from all GMG members as requested, during the intergovernmental negotiations (February – July 2018);
- Ongoing analysis of the zero draft of the GCM and identifying the ways in which GMG members will support States in the implementation of the commitments they will make through the GCM;
- GMG coordination on key events, especially on side events concerning the GCM;
- Maintaining momentum between the end of negotiations and the adoption of the GCM.

ii. Communication

- Further strengthen external communication to ensure the production and dissemination of harmonized messages. This may include, among other things, the revamp of the GMG website;
- Showcase the contributions of the GMG to work in the field, including through the development of guidance materials and tools, and explore how and on what topics this could be expanded in the future.

² A/72/643 para 74

iii. Regular GMG Work

- Six Working Level Meetings (WLMs) (every 6 weeks to two months);
- Two Principals Meetings (probably at the margins of the CEB);
- Participation in key events (speeches, statements).

d) **Initiate discussions about the future of the GMG**

In the light of the New York Declaration and the start of the GCM process, the GMG decided in 2017 to devote its attention to supporting that process, and thus suspended (a) its consideration of new applications for membership, and (b) the focus on the multi annual workplan of the Working Groups (WGs) and Task Forces (TFs), while allowing work to continue as appropriate. The focus of the work of the Group will remain on supporting the GCM process up to July, but once the Secretary General's reforms and consultations on the UN system, and the outcome of the GCM are known, the Group may wish to reflect on the implications for the GMG.

4.2 Expected Outcomes

It is anticipated that the participants to the retreat will achieve the following outcomes:

- i) Agreement on working modalities and ways to support the O-SRSG and O-PGA, as well as the GCM co-facilitators (Mexico and Switzerland), the GFMD and other actors in the process leading to and following agreement on the GCM.
- ii) A GMG workplan for 2018, with recommendations or decisions that need to be put to Principals (April 2018 Principals' Meeting), and agreement to consult and reflect on the implications for the GMG once the SG's consultations and GCM outcome are known.

5. Structure and Agenda of the Retreat

Tentative Agenda

Timeframe	Agenda item	Methodology	Moderators
DAY 1 – Monday 12 February			
13:30 – 15:00	Registration of participants		
15:00 – 15:15	Opening session GMG in 2018: What to Expect GMG Highlights from 2017	Introductory remarks	FAO and IOM UNU
15:15 – 15:45	Adoption of the Agenda Review of the objectives and of the agenda and adoption	Presentation + plenary discussion	FAO
15:45 - 17:30	Setting the scene Conversation with the OSRSG, OPGA and co-facilitators on the GCM process and possible role of GMG	Presentations from OPGA, co-facilitators and the GFMD (TBC), OSRSG, and plenary discussion	IOM, FAO All
17:30 – 18:00	Closing day 1	Closing remarks	IOM
18:00 – 20:00	Dinner	Dinner with GMG	IOM, FAO

		members and OSRSG, OPGA and co-facilitators	
Day 2 – 13 Feb			
0900 – 11:00	Supporting the GCM process Discussions on concrete ways to support the negotiation phase, and maintain momentum to the end of the year	Plenary discussion with O-SRSG	FAO and IOM
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:30 – 12:30	Supporting the GCM process (continued) continued, and summary of main recommendations and conclusions	Plenary discussion	IOM
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00 – 15:00	The link between migration, food security, agriculture, and rural development	Presentation + Moderated discussion	FAO
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>		
15:30 -17:00	The way forward Reflections on the discussions so far, and what it means for the work of the GMG in 2018, including events, and how to improve interactions and communication with States	Presentation + Moderated discussion	FAO and IOM
Day 3 – 14 Feb			
09:00 – 10:30	GMG Work Plan for 2018 Review of the Agenda of Work (focus on priorities for 2018, calendars of events and communication)	Informal roundtable discussion, possibly in groups, if appropriate	IOM
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.00 – 12:30	Conclusions and next steps (including remarks to be made by the co-chairs at DESA Coordination meeting on 15 February)	Plenary presentations and feedback	FAO