

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

UK Resource Guide

Background

In 2016 for the first time ever, Heads of State and Governments from 193 countries came together within the UN General Assembly to discuss migration and refugee matters. These discussions resulted in the adoption of the [New York Declaration for Migrants and Refugees](#), under which states recognised the need for a comprehensive approach and stronger cooperation around human mobility at the global level. The New York Declaration laid the foundations for the negotiation and adoption of two Global Compacts in 2018: [the Global Compact for Refugees \(GCR\)](#) and the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#).

The GCM was formally endorsed by the UN General Assembly in December 2018. It is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement covering all aspects of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The Compact is a voluntary, non-legally binding cooperative framework.

More information about the GCM can be found in the [GCM FAQs](#) and in these short videos:



[GCM 23 objectives in a nutshell](#)



[UN Network on Migration in a nutshell](#)

Implementation and Follow-Up

The implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM are supported by the [UN Network on Migration](#) for which IOM serves as both the Coordinator and Secretariat. Created by the UN Secretary-General, the Network provides UN system-wide support to Member States for GCM implementation¹.

The Network has established a capacity-building mechanism including a connection hub, a global knowledge platform and a start-up fund. [The Migration Network Hub](#) remains the virtual “one-stop-shop” to access, request and share migration-related information and services. The [Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund \(MMPTF\)](#) is a funding mechanism dedicated to supporting collective action on migration and to assist Member States in their national implementation of the Global Compact.

The implementation of the GCM requires concerted efforts at the global, regional, national and local levels. [Regional reviews](#) are held every four years and contribute to the [International Migration Review Forum \(IMRF\)](#). The IMRF will be held for the first time in May 2022 and every four years thereafter to measure progress at the global level. All stakeholders including Member States, civil society organisations and local authorities are invited to contribute to these reviews. The IMRF is the primary global platform for Member States and all relevant stakeholders to share progress on the implementation of the GCM. It will also include a policy debate on the main challenges to the GCM implementation.

¹ The Network consists of 39 entities and includes an Executive Committee of 9 UN entities (ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDESA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO) whose Principals set the strategic guidance of Network’s activities.

The UN Network on Migration has been tasked to provide technical, substantive and administrative support to the IMRF and its preparations. To this end, the Network has developed a [roadmap](#) to help Member States, UN entities and stakeholders understand and engage constructively in this process. The [Migration Network Hub](#) will host multi-stakeholder discussions ahead of the IMRF and will collect and share [good practices](#) on the implementation of the GCM at various levels. Information on the preparation and organization of IMRF 2022 will be posted [here](#).

The UN Secretary-General also reports to the UNGA on a biannual basis on the implementation of the GCM. The first report for 2020 can be read [here](#), with the forthcoming report for the IMRF to be launched in February 2022.

In addition to these processes, over 50 Networks have been established at the country and regional levels to channel UN expertise and support Member States in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM. **In the United Kingdom**, a GCM engagement group of interested stakeholders is meeting periodically to raise awareness on the Compact and support implementation in the UK context.

The UN Network on Migration's Thematic Priorities

In 2019 the UN Network on Migration identified [six thematic priorities](#), representing key migration issues, and established corresponding thematic working groups (TWGs).

These working groups support states' efforts to achieve GCM objectives by creating and piloting tools and policy guidance and supporting exchange between stakeholders. Each TWG draws experience from multiple organizations, has its own workplan, timeline and avenues for stakeholders to get involved. Specific [thematic guidance on key migration issues](#) has been developed on access to services; alternatives to detention; return and reintegration; bilateral labour migration agreements; and regular pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations.

A [Network workplan for 2021-2022](#) focuses on UN system support to Member States for GCM implementation in the run-up to the IMRF, and includes [new workstreams](#) on climate/migration and including migrants in COVID-19 response and recovery plans.

UK Government Engagement on the GCM

The UK Government has been a supporter of the GCM since its framing and development and endorsed the GCM in December of 2018. The documents below showcase the UK Government's statements and communication on the principles and objectives of the GCM:

- [UK Government Statement on the Endorsement of the GCM](#) (2018)
- [UK Government Briefing on the GCM](#) (2019) explains what the GCM is, what it entails for member states and the UK position
- [UK Submission to the Global Compact for Migration European Regional Review](#) (2020) highlights the initial steps taken by the UK Government to bring national policy and programming in alignment with the GCM objectives
- The UK is also a contributor to the Multi-Party Trust Fund and the second largest donor.

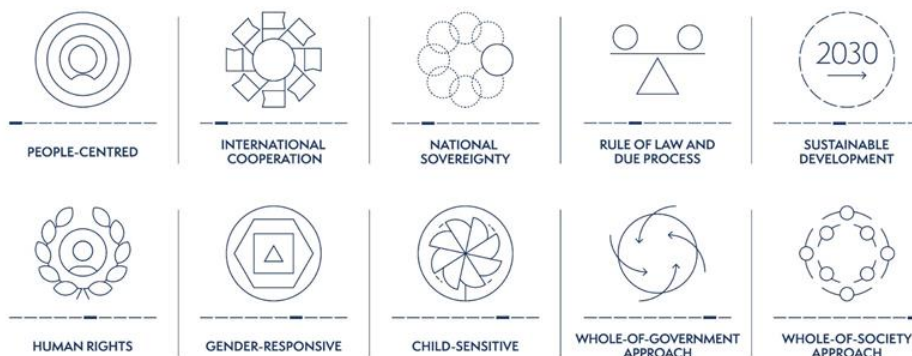
GCM Initiatives and Resources in the UK context

- [Reflections on how the New Plan for Immigration sets the UK up for its global responsibilities](#)
 This discussion hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration and jointly organised by RAMP and IOM explored how the GCM can better inform UK migration policy and programming.
- [Policy into practice: Implementing humanitarian priorities in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)
 This report by the British Red Cross and ICRC brings together the ideas and practical recommendations raised in a series of discussions with the UK Government and civil society.
- [The 'GCM Implementation' Blog Series by the Refugee Law Initiative](#)
 The series includes analyses of country reports and thematic blogs covering objectives of the Compact or specific human rights issues as well as the UNSG report. UK specific articles examine how the GCM objectives are applied in the Immigration Act 2020 and the 2021 Nationality and Borders Bill, for example by focusing on migrants with disabilities or stateless children.
- [Increasing Engagement in the UK on the Global Compact for Migration](#)
 This project is run by IOM UK, in partnership with the Centre for Global Development and IMIX, and aims to enhance awareness and engagement of UK stakeholders on the Global Compact on Migration.

Resources and Staying Up to Date

- [The IOM UK's landing page on the Global Compact on Migration.](#)
- [The Network Monthly Newsletter](#) is the best way to stay up to date on events, resources and best practices. Click [here](#) to register.
- The [Network website](#) and [Calendar of Events 2021](#).
- [The GCM Branding Guidelines.](#)
- Guidance for Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM): [Guidance for Governments and all Relevant Stakeholders](#). The [GCM booklet](#) provides substantive information on all 23 objectives of the Global Compact, including examples of practical applications.

The GCM Guiding Principles



The 23 GCM Objectives

- (1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.
- (2) Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.
- (3) Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.
- (4) Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.
- (5) Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
- (6) Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.
- (7) Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.
- (8) Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.
- (9) Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.
- (10) Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.
- (11) Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner.
- (12) Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral.
- (13) Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives.
- (14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle.
- (15) Provide access to basic services for migrants.
- (16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.
- (17) Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.
- (18) Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.
- (19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.
- (20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.
- (21) Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration.
- (22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits.
- (23) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.