



WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH: ENGAGING WITH ALL RELEVANT ACTORS

The Compact is to be implemented in cooperation and partnership with a wide range of both governmental and non-governmental partners:

“The Global Compact promotes broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance (GCM, para. 15 (j)).”

THE IMPORTANCE OF A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

By taking a whole-of-society approach, government actors should foster meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement throughout all steps of GCM implementation, as well as ensure the robust participation of migrants and host community members in the implementation, follow-up and review stages.

A whole-of-society approach requires government actors to create enabling environments that are inclusive, safe and sustainable, not only during consultations with relevant stakeholders but throughout all processes related to GCM implementation and review. Such environments are not

only aligned with the GCM's age-, gender-, disability- and diversity-sensitive principles, but they are much more likely to meaningfully include and amplify the voices of those who often face significant structural barriers to participation, such as migrants and migrant-led organizations.

Migration is a transversal phenomenon relevant to all levels of government, as well as a wide range of policy domains, and so a whole-of-society approach helps ensure that cross-societal and cross-governmental collaboration occurs. For example, when States take a whole-of-society approach to providing accurate and timely information at all stages of migration (Objective 3), they are compelled to organize multilingual, gender-responsive and evidence-based campaigns and awareness-raising activities in partnership with a wide range of governmental and civil society actors, including local authorities, consular and diplomatic missions, employers' and workers' organizations, diaspora organizations and academia (GCM, para. 19 (e)).

WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH IN PRACTICE



Implement the GCM in cooperation and partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including:

Migrants

Civil society organizations

Faith-based organizations

Trade unions

Migrant and diaspora organizations

Private sector actors

Local authorities and communities

Parliamentarians

National Human Rights Institutions

Media

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Academia



Organize multi-stakeholder consultations throughout all steps of GCM implementation and review.



Establish meaningful mechanisms for including all relevant stakeholders in migration governance (see GCM, paragraphs 15 and 44).



Identify ways in which collaboration and partnerships around migration governance can be strengthened and improved. This includes:

- Identifying gaps in existing collaboration and partnerships and eliminate barriers to stakeholder participation, including structural, gender, legal, linguistic, physical and technological barriers;
- Providing space for all stakeholders to ensure active, free, informed and meaningful participation and engagement in migration governance processes and decision-making, including through developing consultation mechanisms and modalities;
- Providing relevant information, in a language and format accessible to migrants, regarding the decision-making processes that affect them;

- Enhancing the capacities of partners to ensure meaningful participation in established consultation mechanisms;
- Ensuring all voices are included and amplified, such as migrant organizations led by women, youth and disabled persons.



Actively practise openness and receptivity to critical opinions, particularly those coming from community members most affected by migration policy, and regularly integrate this feedback into policy interventions.



Standing in solidarity with migrants: Supporting civil society and other stakeholders in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

In July 2020, the United Nations Network on Migration released a statement on supporting civil society organizations and other stakeholders in responding to COVID-19. The statement recognizes all actors providing vital protection, monitoring, advocacy, information and support to – and in collaboration with – migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement also calls for increased recognition for this work, including through avenues for meaningful participation and greater governmental and financial support. The statement recalls the GCM’s commitment to a whole-of-society approach, which recognizes that migration governance requires the input of all sectors of government and society, and urged that this principle be upheld in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. The full statement is available at <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/statements>.