



Concept Note: First Global Civil Society - Member States Dialogue on Engagement in the IMRF

28 July 2021

Background

A little less than a year remains until the first **International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)** is expected to take place in New York in May 2022. Civil society organizations have begun to prepare and strategize for this key global migration governance event, where UN Member States and other stakeholders will assess progress made on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

In order to collectively prepare for its self-organizing towards the IMRF, the Civil Society Action Committee (AC) members and partners have proposed to initiate a year-long series of preparatory briefings, consultations, and advocacy dialogues, firstly within civil society, and then with UN Member States, as well as with other strategic stakeholders. The purpose of these discussions is firstly **to assess and advocate for civil society's role and related mechanics in its IMRF engagement**, and also **to advocate for the thematic priorities** that many have already begun to formulate.

First Steps

In the first phase of this process (May-July 2021), the AC began by firstly **consolidating civil society work** from the recent Regional Migration Review Forums (RMRFs) along with other assessments of GCM implementation, as well as assessed global civil society's initial intentions towards self-organizing priorities. This was undertaken through a civil society global survey as well as discussions within the AC membership from early May to mid-June 2021.

Based on this, the AC then convened our first **open global civil society consultation** on 28 June 2021, to collectively **review initial ideas, expectations and proposals** from a range of civil society organizations around the globe, to begin prioritizing for our self-organized collective engagement in the IMRF. These initial inputs, ideas and proposals will be coalesced and summarized, with the intention to **present and dialogue on these with a select group of UN Member States**. The first of these civil society – Member States dialogues will take on 28 July 2021 (see below).

In subsequent phases (later in 2021 and early 2022), further briefings and consultations will be organized within global civil society, and further dialogues and workshops will continue to be organized with Member States, as well as other stakeholders, on the road to the first IMRF in May 2022.

First Global Civil Society Dialogue with Member States

The results of the first open global civil society consultation will be summarized and compiled by the consultation's co-facilitators with support by the AC Secretariat. These will be presented to a group of like-minded Member States, primarily GCM "Champion Countries" (although not all), in a dialogue on 28

July 2021. This dialogue itself will be an open exchange between the co-facilitators of the civil society consultation, with the invited Member States' representatives. This dialogue will be open, and other civil society participants may also pose questions and comments as appropriate.

The objectives of this first global dialogue between civil society and Member States are:

- To share *initial ideas, proposals, as well as concerns* about GCM implementation and the IMRF.
- To **foster mutual understanding, cooperation and collaboration** between civil society and Member States for IMRF engagement.
- To identify areas for **further exploration and cooperation** on our respective progress towards the IMRF.

Format

- *Date and Time:* **28 July 2021, 15:00 – 17:00 CEST / 09:00 – 11:00 EDT**
- *Medium:* online Zoom webinar format ([registration here](#))
- *Languages:* English, French, Spanish (with simultaneous interpretation)
- Moderated, interactive panel dialogue
- *Moderator:* **Colin Rajah** (Coordinator, Civil Society Action Committee)
- *Panelists:*
 - First global civil society consultation co-facilitators:
 - **Alma Maquitico** (Director, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights)
 - **Apolinar Tolentino** (Asia-Pacific Regional Representative, BWI Global Union)
 - **Cecilie Kern** (Vice-Chair, NGO Committee on Migration)
 - **Marta Verani** (Global Focal Point, Migration Children and Youth Platform)
 - Invited Member States:
 - **Amb. Evan Garcia**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN in Geneva
 - **Anne Hitzegrad**, Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), Germany

Agenda

- (15:00) Welcome and Introduction (10 minutes):
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 - Introduction of panelists
 - Overview of agenda
- (15:10) Panel dialogue (60 minutes):
 - Presentation of summary inputs from civil society consultation
 - Comments and reflections by Member States
- (16:10) Questions/comments from other civil society participants (40 minutes):
 - Questions/comments from participants and chatbox
 - Responses by panelists
- (16:50) Final comments by panelists (10 minutes)
- (17:00) *End*