



## **Dialogue between the Issue-Based Coalition for Europe and Central Asia on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience and Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in the region**

9 October 2020, 10 – 11.30 AM (CET time)

**IBC Co-chairs:** Mrs Renate Held (IOM) and Mrs Angela Li Rosi (UNHCR)

**Moderator:** Mona Folkesson (IOM)

**Participants:** See Annex

### **Agenda**

**1. Welcoming remarks and tour de table by the Regional Director of the UN Development Coordination Office for Europe and Central Asia, Ms. Gwi-Yeop Son**

**2. Opening remarks by IBC co-chairs**

- a. Ms. Angela Li Rosi, UNHCR Deputy Director for Europe
- b. Ms. Renate Held, IOM Regional Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

**3. Progress made by the IBC LMPDR**

- a. Mr. Nicolas Brass, UNHCR Senior External Engagement Coordinator, Regional Bureau for Europe
- b. Mr. Amr Taha, IOM Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- c. Q&A

**4. Update on the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and Global Refugee Forum**

- a. Ms. Jeanette Zuefle, UNHCR Senior Protection Coordinator, Regional Bureau for Europe
- b. Q&A

**5. Update on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, follow-up and review**

- a. Mr. António Vitorino, IOM Director General
- b. Q&A

**6. Closing Remarks by Regional Director of the UN Development Coordination Office for Europe and Central Asia region, Ms. Gwi-Yeop Son**

## Summary

Opened by the Regional Director of the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), the UNHCR Deputy Director for the Regional Bureau for Europe and the IOM Regional Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the meeting touched upon the IBC LMPDR's achievements and workplan, seeking feedbacks, including on support needs, from Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

The meeting also offered an opportunity for UNHCR to provide an update on the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

The IOM Director General, in his capacity of Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration (UNNM), presented the role played by the IBC as Regional Network on Migration. The importance of an UN system-wide collaborative engagement at all levels in the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) was highlighted, in line with the objectives and principles of the GCM, framed within the 2030 Agenda. IOM expressed its appreciation of the support provided by RCs, including in the form of the co-chairing of nine national networks on migration in the region. The vulnerabilities of migrants must be addressed, and migration must be leveraged, for sustainable recovery from COVID-19. An update on the status of the GCM Regional Review in the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region was also provided.

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### 1. Welcoming remarks - r-DCO

- The region hosts **11.4 million persons of concern** to the IBC, including 7 million refugees, 2.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), over 1.3 million asylum-seekers and returnees, 605,000 stateless persons and 143.4 million international migrants. The population of international migrants in the region represents **57% of the world's** 271.6 million international migrants. The proportion of migrants relative to the overall population within the region (11.7%) is more than three times the world's average (3.5%).
- The region is a major sender and recipient of international **remittances** which reached 689Bn USD globally in 2019. Remittances are expected to decline with COVID by 20% in 2020. Armenia, Tajikistan are among the world's top ten dependent countries.
- The region shows excellent examples of **inclusion** of the IBC's target populations into national COVID-19 responses. In that regard, the leadership of RCs is crucial, including to use refugees, migrants and other persons of concern to the IBC as accelerators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### 1. Opening remarks - IBC LMPDR co-chairs

- The IBC LMPDR was **established** in the context of the 2015-2016 crisis in Europe and has grown ever since.
- An **excellent inter agency coordination** exists in the region, as demonstrated for instance by the relocation of unaccompanied minors from Greece steered by UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM.
- The IBC LMPDR offers opportunities to strengthen **regional collaboration** on issues of regional interest.
- As a consequence of movement restrictions and concerns raised by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on people of concern to the IBC, the IBC LMPDR has developed [Key Messages and](#)

[Advocacy Points for RCs and UNCTs on the COVID-19 outbreak](#) in favour of the inclusion of its target populations into national COVID-19 responses.

- RCs and UNCTs are invited to provide **feedbacks on additional needs**, for example with regard to UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), the implementation of the socio-economic response frameworks for COVID, training and regional trends analysis. The support provided by the IBC does not have to be **one size fits all**.
- IOM was accepted as **co-chair to the IBC LMPDR** in December 2019.
- **Achievements** of the IBC LMPDR include the creation of a [SharePoint](#) platform, the development of *Key Messages and Advocacy Points* and the organization of several multi-stakeholder consultations.
- The IBC LMPDR serves as the **Regional UN Network on Migration** for the Europe and Central Asia region (ECA) to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM.
- Using a whole-of-society and multi-stakeholder approach, the **first Regional Review on the implementation of the 23 objectives of the GCM** will take place on 12 and 13 November 2020. All UNECE Member States have been invited to provide voluntary contributions on progress made and challenges encountered so far.

## 2. Progress - IBC LMPDR

- The IBC is looking at supporting the development and implementation of **UNSDCFs and COVID socio-economic response plans**, including to ensure the target populations of the IBC are included.
- The IBC has proven to be a useful forum to develop **joint advocacy products**.
- The IBC stands ready to support RCs and UNCTs with **trends analysis** at the regional level, **capacity-building** and an enhanced **collaboration** with other stakeholders, including other IBCs in the region.
- The global **UN Network on Migration** was established in May 2018 to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States for the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM. In the spirit of avoiding duplications and strengthen synergies with existing migration-related UN fora, the IBC LMPDR serves as a Regional UN Network on Migration for the ECA region and engages with UN agencies and Members States to support them in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM.
- In the region, nine **national UN Networks on Migration** have been established to date, the terms of reference of which can be accessed on the [IBC LMPDR SharePoint](#).

4 networks are established and formally launched:

- Azerbaijan (formally launched: 17 Jul. 2020)
- Belarus (formally launched: 8 Aug. 2020)
- Georgia (formally launched: 30 Jun. 2020)
- Moldova (formally launched: 24 Jul. 2019)

5 networks are established but not formally launched yet:

- Kazakhstan
- Kosovo\*
- Kyrgyzstan
- Serbia
- Turkmenistan

4 networks are under development:

- Armenia (terms of reference and workplan under development)
- Ukraine
- Turkey

- Albania (process has been delayed)

- Following a **whole-of-society approach**, networks require concerted and cooperative action not only by governments but also by the many non-state actors with an essential role to play in good migration governance, including migrants themselves, civil society, the private sector, unions, diaspora organizations and academia, amongst others.
- On a voluntary basis, UNECE Member States are currently submitting **progress reports on their implementation of the GCM** which will feed into the Regional Review on 12-13 November 2020 and inform the 2022 Global Review.
- The IBC LMPDR supported non-governmental **stakeholders' engagement** in the GCM through two global and two regional webinars in September and October 2020 on a meaningful engagement in the overall GCM process.
- The IOM DG, in his capacity of coordinator of the Network, updated RCs, via a letter, on the launch of the **Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (M-MPTF)** in July 2019 and the composition of the M-MPTF steering committee (UN, donors, MS and stakeholders). The DG also briefed Member States on Network activities and GCM Champion Countries.

#### **Questions and feedbacks from RCs and UNCTs**

- Participants expressed their **appreciation** of the work of the IBC LMPDR. The contribution to **UNSDCF** processes, including to the Common Country Analysis (CCA), is very much welcomed and needed.
- The IBC LMPDR is invited to enhance its **collaboration with other IBCs**, including the IBC on environment and climate change, to ensure an inter-linked and coordinated response to field demands.
- RCs and UNCTs have to deal with the **politization** of migration and focus on the substance of the issue. The space for dialogue on migration should be protected.
- The IBC LMPDR is invited to include **Russian-speaking** experts in regional forums when relevant.  
→ **IBC LMPDR**: The [Almaty Process](#), a regional consultative process on Refugee Protection and International Migration to, from and within Central Asia, to which IOM and UNHCR provide secretarial support, may be a relevant platform to bring together Russian-speaking countries to discuss displacement and migration.

### **3. Update on the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and pledges from the Global Refugee Forum**

- Responsibility-sharing and **solidarity** are key concepts of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).
- The GCR promotes a **multi-stakeholder approach**, including local authorities and other local actors, networks of cities and municipalities, parliaments, civil society organisations, faith-based actors, the private sector, academic networks and actors engaged in sports and cultural activities.
- **Support platforms** led by States have been established to support the implementation of the GCR in certain areas and help concretize burden and responsibility-sharing.
- The **Asylum Capacity Support Group** is a means to identify existing gaps in asylum systems in order to identify a State which may have developed good practices and could support States that are still struggling.

- 1,400 pledges were received at the December 2019 **Global Refugee Forum**, including 350 from European States. 54% of these are supposed to be implemented outside of Europe. Multi-stakeholder pledges were also received, including civil society.
- Many pledges are not yet fully **implemented** as most have a long-term dimension. 19/350 pledges are fully implemented at this point. Only 34% of the entities have provided an update. In Serbia, an integration action plan was developed and completed. Malta and North Macedonia have acceded to the Statelessness conventions.
- The **support** of RCs and UNCTs would be welcomed to encourage pledging entities to report progress on the implementation of their pledges through the online self-reporting tool.

#### 4. Update on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, follow-up and review

The **Regional UN Network for Migration** for ECA, embedded within the IBC LMPDR, has been instrumental in keeping all the relevant stakeholders abreast of the development of the GCM implementation, follow-up and review processes.

- **RCs and UNCTs** have guided the creation of national networks and supported governments in their implementation of the GCM and review of progress made.
- The IBC LMPDR has developed **Key Messages and Advocacy Points on the COVID-19 outbreak** for RCs and UNCTs, highlighting that migrants, refugees and other groups must be considered as an essential part of the response and solution to the pandemic, both in addressing their specific vulnerabilities as well as leveraging their critical role as actors who may contribute to a sustainable recovery.
- **Common Country Analysis (CCA)**, which many UNCTs are currently working on or planning to work on and will then serve as a basis for UNSDCF, constitute an invaluable opportunity to include migration and displacement into strategic programming and discussions with government partners. IOM is in the process of developing **tools** to help guide RCs and UNCTs' engagement both in the context of the CCAs but also beyond, including with the Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) where applicable.
- Co-chaired by IOM and RCs, nine **national networks** on migration have been established in the ECA region and more are under development, showing our understanding of the essential role played by migration in advancing the 2030 agenda.
- A project in North Macedonia has received funding from the **Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (M-MPTF)**. A project in Tajikistan is under review. To ensure the long-term health of the M-MPTF, its donor base should be broadened. RCs and UNCTs are invited to explore with their respective governments the possibility of contributions.
- Armenia, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Kosovo have secured funding from the **COVID Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-MPTF)**. An additional five projects are in the pipeline, from North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.
- The **GCM Regional Review** for the UNECE region will take place virtually over two days, on 12-13 November 2020, providing Member States and stakeholders with a space to present and review progress made with regard to the GCM implementation. The intergovernmental event will consist of an opening segment, followed by four thematic roundtables.
- The deadline for **submissions of voluntary written inputs** by Member States is 31 October 2020. Member States, stakeholders, representatives of relevant regional and cross-regional platforms and organizations are also invited to express their interest in contributing to the various sessions of the event. RCs and UNCTs are encouraged to explore with their respective governments the possibility to contribute to this important event.

- Nine countries in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia region have contributed to **the UN Secretary General's biennial report** on the GCM, of which an advanced copy has been circulated, namely Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Turkey, and Turkmenistan. In the EEA region, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK and the EU have contributed to the report.

***Questions and feedbacks from RCs and UNCTs***

- To safeguard space for international cooperation and to provide more resources to address challenges, more support is needed for a **country of origin** of migrants such as Uzbekistan.
- Support is needed from regional actors to address the **politization** of migration and displacement, for instance using the SDGs and other advocacy tools.

→ **IOM and UNHCR**: Beyond the IBC LMPDR, IOM and UNCHR are joining efforts, including in terms of joint or complementary advocacy (joint statements) and solutions (relocation).