



## Civil society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting

### *2017 Regional and Global processes toward the States' Stocktaking Conference*

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Saturday and Sunday 2– 3 December 2017

#### REPORT

27 December 2017

##### **This report**

presents the highlights of the regional and global Stocktaking and Strategy Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting that took place in Puerto Vallarta Mexico 2-3 December, 2017, on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The report is drawn from rapporteur and participant notes (many of which were reported and discussed in plenaries during the meeting) presented, input received from the moderators and other participants, and feedback or conclusions from an evaluation survey that 20 participants completed shortly after the meeting.

#### CONTEXT

In just the past two years, all 193 UN Member States unanimously adopted back-to-back commitments to “Safe, Orderly and Regular” Migration: first in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* of 2015, and then in the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#) at the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. Even more broadly, both the 2030 Agenda and the New York Declaration underscore the full range of rights that apply to migrants regardless of status, and the need for concrete implementation of those rights. Further, in the New York Declaration, states specifically committed to a two-year, states-led but multi-stakeholder process to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) to be adopted at an intergovernmental conference in 2018. States further committed to develop a Global Compact on Refugees on a similar timeline but in a separate process led by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

States-led but not states-only, the process to develop the [Global Compact for Migration](#) (GCM) is overseen by two state co-facilitators, Mexico and Switzerland, working closely with the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA), and the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for International Migration (SRSR), Ms. Louise Arbour. The process of drafting the GCM is structured as follows:

- Phase I – Consultations: April to November 2017
- Phase 2 – Stocktaking: November 2017 to January 2018
- Phase 3 – Intergovernmental negotiations: February to July 2018

Following and bringing to a close the eight months phase of multi-actor **consultations** at global, thematic, regional and national levels, and a range of other processes that focused specifically on the GCM, a government-led **Stocktaking** Conference took place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico from 4 – 6 of December 2017, to “take stock” of inputs received. The outcomes of the Stocktaking, together with all input received during the consultations phase and a report that the SRSG is preparing for the UN Secretary General to issue in mid-January, will provide the basis for a “*zero-draft document*” of the GCM, which will be released by the co-facilitators by February 2018 as the starting point for the **Intergovernmental negotiations** phase.

On the two days immediately before the government-led Stocktaking Conference, civil society leaders from around the world decided to **self-organize** their own, **Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting**, also in Puerto Vallarta.

As in the states’ Stocktaking meeting, the purpose of the “Stocktaking” portion of this civil society meeting was to look back at inputs already provided in the GCM process. In particular, the focus was on civil society inputs [a] at *regional* levels, especially in the 7 regional civil society consultations that civil society organized around the world specifically on the GCM; and [b] in *global* processes that civil society organized on the GCM over the prior 12 months, most notably the Civil Society Days and Common Space programmes of the two Global Forums on Migration and Development (GFMD) since December 2016 and the *Children on the Move* conference in June 2017<sup>1</sup>.

In civil society’s further focus on “Strategy” during the meeting, the goal was for civil society to organize not just its input but itself: both on substance and for political engagement on the GCM directly with governments, beginning on the second of the two civil society days there, then in the three government Stocktaking days, and finally towards and throughout the entire GCM negotiations and adoption process in 2018.

## **THE CIVIL SOCIETY STOCKTAKING AND STRATEGY MEETING: 2017 REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROCESSES**

The [civil society meeting](#) took place 2 – 3 December in Puerto Vallarta. It was organized by the ICMC-MADE Coordinating Office, working closely with an **organizing group** comprising members of the global civil society Action Committee—in particular its members focused on migrants and migration, in further consultation with the International Steering Committee (ISC) of civil society for the GFMD, and the Inter-Regional Committee comprising the focal points of the regional civil society consultations on the GCM. While the Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting was entirely self-organized by civil society, it was made possible with financial support from the European Union, through the International Organization for Migration.

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<sup>1</sup> These regional and global processes—more than 1000 hours of meeting, reflection and discussion-- involved more than 1000 representatives of civil society organizations active in migration and development, across every sector of civil society in close to 100 countries in every region of the world: migrant, refugee and diaspora associations, human rights and development CSOs, , faith-based and labour organizations, and academics and business actors. In the global processes, half or more of the participants were migrants, refugees or the children or grandchildren of migrants or refugees.

This gathering provided a space for civil society to meet together on priority messages and strategies to bring directly to governments, on the second day of the civil society meeting, then into the government-led Stocktaking Conference 4-6 December, and the negotiations phase that begins in February 2018. It brought together civil society leaders and designated representatives from the wide range of regional and global processes that civil society organized on the GCM between December 2016 and November 2017. These convened 470 civil society representatives from 93 countries in the 7 regional processes and another more than 500 civil society representatives in two GFMDs and other global meetings.

**Mr. Ignacio Packer**, former head of Terre des Hommes and incoming Executive Director of ICVA (the International Council of Voluntary Agencies) and **Ms. Roula Hamati** from the Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants in Lebanon, chaired and moderated the Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting. A set of background documents was prepared and circulated in advance for the meeting, including an agenda, concept note, brief reports from the regional and global civil society processes, and a list of processes, participants and coordinators of participant designation (click [here](#))

**Day 1** (Saturday 2 December) was dedicated to civil society “taking stock” of the principal results of the 7 regional consultations and the multiple global events focused specifically on the Migration Compact since December 2016, including both GFMDs and the *Children on the Move* conference in June. 10 small group sessions focused each on one of the [Now and How Ten Acts for the Global Compact](#), the unified civil society vision for the Global Compact that, following a strong recommendation by civil society at the GFMD in Germany in June-July, had been developed by the organizers of the Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting between August and October and signed by 200 civil society organizations around the world as of the start of the meeting. These small group sessions, each involving some 7-12 civil society participants in two rounds of 90-minute discussions, explicitly prepared for plenary and corresponding small table discussions with government representatives over a 6-hour period the next day.

**Day 2** (Sunday 3 December) was “government day”, with 50 representatives of 22 governments plus the EU joining the programme at civil society’s invitation. About half were from ministries and capital, about 1/3 from permanent missions, and about 10 ambassadors. From 8:30 am through 2:30 pm, they participated actively in a plenary “hearing” of civil society results and priorities—at which many intervened from the floor with questions or perspectives, and two rounds of informal, issue-focused “small table” meetings over 3 1/2 hours through lunch. Led by civil society leaders of the group sessions the day before, and conducted informally and under *Chatham house rules*, these tables each picked up one of the *Now and How Ten Acts* and involved between 5-8 civil society participants (from the corresponding group session the day before) and 4 – 6 government representatives who for the most part had chosen to participate in the table on that specific issue.

During the plenary, Ambassadors and several others specifically applauded the *Now and How Ten Acts for the Global Compact*. Among the remarks, from Ambassadors and representatives of different governments:

- *“Our government appreciates the efforts that have gone into what for our government perspective is a very coherent document: a short, pragmatic set of proposals that we can take into the Stocktaking.”*

- *“It is very useful to deal with a civil society that is coherent and bringing together many of the same messages.”*
- *“We are glad to see the Ten Acts. It is good to see where interests are converging.”*
- *“This is an excellent basis for a continuing dialogue. We saw it with what you put forward at the UN High-level Dialogue in 2013 and again for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This is one more example of civil society’s contribution and role in dialogue.”*

As noted by Ignacio Packer during the plenary, an Ambassador of one of the governments with whom civil society leaders agree some of the time, had said to civil society colleagues during their recent advocacy visits to Permanent Missions to the UN: *“This is exactly what we need. And just in time.”*

## SNAPSHOT OF PARTICIPANTS

74 participants from civil society organisations, directly designated by the organizers of civil society regional or global processes focused on the GCM

- 41 migrants, refugees or members of the diaspora (i.e., children or grandchildren of migrants or refugees)
- 55 women and 29 men
- 4 youth delegates
- 19 from Europe, 17 from Latin America (of which 8 from Mexico); 13 from North America; 12 from Africa 12; 6 from the Middle East-North Africa, 5 from Asia, and 1 from the Pacific
- 55 went on to participate in the government-led Stocktaking 4-6 December

*plus* 50 representatives from 22 governments and the EU attending the plenary and small table discussions on Day 2

## STATES AND UN AGENCIES PARTICIPATING

### a) The UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative on International Migration (SRSG)

SRSG Louise Arbour joined the programme in a brief **plenary panel and discussion** on Day 1, recognizing and encouraging civil society on the *Now and How: Ten Acts*, and emphasizing the important role of civil society in advocacy during the negotiations. The report she is writing for the UN Secretary General will go to translators before Christmas, and will be circulated publicly by mid-January. In the states’ Stocktaking conference she also gave a glance of the issues the report is likely to raise up:

1. **Regular migrants:** how best to ensure that risks they face are reduced.
2. **Irregular migrants:** ways to bring them out of the shadows, including increasing regular pathways, such as family reunification, student visas and circular migration.
3. Large **mixed flows** of people on the move, and how to protect those who fall outside of the scope of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

4. **Return:** alternatives for those who should not be returned (acknowledgement of the need to look at non-refoulement from a wider perspective). Here the SRSG challenged civil society to unpack what this could mean.
5. Systems response: **intergovernmental oversight and follow-up.**
  - The UN system is well positioned to assist the implementation of the GCM, especially with IOM having joined the UN. No new agency or body will be put in place.
  - The report will look at current oversight mechanisms and potentially linking it to the monitoring of the SDGs.

b) **States Co-facilitators of the process to develop the GCM**

Ambassadors Gomez Camacho of Mexico and Lauber of Switzerland, the GCM Co-facilitators, met over a **90-minute lunch** with the civil society organizing group of the Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting and then joined the full meeting in a **plenary panel and discussion**. Both facilitators reiterated the need for civil society to be engaged in the process, expressed appreciation of the unity of voice, clarity, scope and timing of the *Now and How Ten Acts* document but challenged the way civil society sometimes works, especially when civil society falls too much into merely parroting UN or diplomat language in process, substance or politics, particularly in centers like Geneva and New York. They emphasized the importance of civil society leaders talking much more directly “back home”, with governments in capitals.

For the Compact itself, they shared their sense of states insisting that the Compact must take a balanced and “360 approach”, meaning it would deal with all aspects of migration, and would have to be negotiated in its entirety. It will not be negotiated in pieces: e.g. with a set of chapters closing after each week of negotiations. For example, the EU and its member states might discuss opening up regular channels of migration, but will strongly push for increase of returns the other side of the coin, pushing strongly for the need of countries of origin to reaccept its nationals.

The end of the negotiations will be end of July. The fact that the international conference has been delayed for December 2018 does not mean an extension of the negotiation phase.

c) **Small tables with governments**

Two months before the Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting, ICMC and the civil society organizing group identified and sent invitations to a mix of some 50 governments to join the meeting on its second day, first in plenary but then in two rounds of issue-focused small tables and networking.

The first round consisted of ten small tables, each focused for 90 minutes on one of the *Now and How Ten Acts*. The governments were further invited to choose which of the ten issues in the *Now and How Ten Acts* they would most like to meet with civil society on in the tables. Mostly from the “north”, 22 governments plus the EU accepted the invitation, though several from Asia and Latin America participated as well. For the full schedule and list of civil society as well as government participants of the ten small tables, please look at annex 1. The second round consisted of a 2-hour block of free time during lunch, for more spontaneous networking and discussion between civil society and government participants.

As part of the deliberate structure of both rounds, there was no specific agenda, no formal notes, and no reports back of highlights of the discussions. However, responses in the evaluation survey

expressed appreciation for the attendance, structure and organising of the small table, particularly for:

- pitching key ideas and highlighting civil society messages
- dynamic discussion directly with states on their perspectives regarding specific issues for the GCM
- creating an atmosphere of informality in which civil society participants could build or strengthen relationships with key governments.

Respecting *Chatham house rules*, amongst the main conclusions from the small tables with governments:

- Governments are not monolith, it will be important going into the negotiations to understand who in each government is going to take the lead in the negotiations (NY – Capital, home affairs – foreign affairs).
- Governments can be “friends” or “champions” of civil society on some issues and be just the opposite on others
- It is important that civil society speaks with a common voice, this will be important in the negotiations. It was said that “the more civil society speaks together on issues, the harder it is for governments to ignore civil society.”
- Positions of governments are still not quite clear: many are not yet ‘showing their cards’ before the zero draft is out.

**d) Civil society meeting with the President of the UN General Assembly**

On Wednesday 6 December, in the margins of the states’ Stocktaking meeting, a group of 8 civil society leaders from the Action Committee and regional civil society consultations on the GCM met with HE Miroslav *Lajčák* the President of the UN General Assembly. Initially expected by civil society to be ½ hour, Mr. *Lajčák* expressed his interest and participated actively in a full hour discussion. Led by Ignacio Packer, chair of the Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting, participants reviewed highlights of that meeting, with particular attention to the regional reports and emphases, and civil society’s global approach to consolidating common messages (e.g., the *Now and How Ten Acts* and the *Child Rights in the Global Compacts*), collective voice and advocacy. Among other issues, the discussion touched directly on matters of:

- governance, both of the coming Compact and of migration broadly (i.e., Acts 10.1 and 10.2) and including IOM, other key UN agencies as well as the SRSG;
- the importance of review and follow-up, connected but not limited to SDG-related processes like the High-level Political Forum and the GFMD (Act 10.6); ensuring civil society space and voice in negotiations, implementation and other UN processes; and
- policy imperatives on improving decent work and sustainable development in countries of origin to reduce migration that is forced; expanding protection of vulnerable migrants and migrants in vulnerable situations, especially children; widening legal channels for those who do migrate; and realizing rights of migrants whatever their status to access education, healthcare, justice and other public services without fear of being reported or deported (i.e., firewalls)

Finally, civil society participants reported a near-total lack of effort among UN agencies, states and others to ensure that the Migration Compact and the Refugee Compact are not only coherent, but *“walk and talk together”*, as migrants and refugees do in the real world, in mixed migration, mixed location, workplaces, families and communities, calling for connection and interaction between the two Compacts, not just complementarity.

e) The states' Stocktaking Conference, 4 – 6 December

The UN and Co-facilitators organized the states' Stocktaking. Despite efforts from the organizers to make the sessions dynamic and interactive, most speakers read pre-drafted statements. All states were invited and many came, though at times the cavernous room seemed only half full. There was low representation from the African region most notably, but high interest from the MENA region, with both large delegations and frequent interventions.

While it was states-led, it was not states-only: 55 out of the 74 civil society delegates that participated in the civil society stocktaking were invited to attend the states' Stocktaking the following days. A few were invited to speak as part of a panel, and many spoke from the floor throughout the two last days (the first day was low on civil society speaking slots from the floor). Many of the civil society speakers began their interventions from the floor with the two lines that had recommended in the civil society meeting: *“We are representing civil society and we've been working at national, regional, local and global level. We're connected and we have a collective voice.”*

Speakers from the floor were limited to 2 minutes maximum, generally with at least one round of responses from the panellists.

A number of the panel presentations and interventions from the floor and the programme of the states' Stocktaking are available [here](#).

In terms of highlights:

- Wide acknowledgement among states (with civil society much more cautious) that IOM would be the principal lead on the implementation of the GCM. Some governments even referred to IOM as the Secretariat for the GCM.
- There was growing mention of the GCM shaping and galvanizing different coalitions on sets of issues, that all work towards the same vision. Monitoring should be done at national, regional and global level, and needs to include a whole-of governance approach. There was strong push from certain governments to have the lead expertise in Geneva.
- On the issue of complementarity between both compacts, few governments stated anything on this (but those who did, e.g.: Canada, Germany, Ecuador, Belgium), strong pushback: Australia, Jordan, Lebanon.
- No clear commitment from governments on whether the global compact should include an increase of safe and regular pathways, except from certain governments, such as most South American countries and Mali.
- A variety of 'actionable commitments' or the building of coalitions mentioned, on e.g. return.
- Other issues: strengthening consular protection for migrants / Creating skills partnerships/ building capacity for data collection/improving conditions for migrant domestic workers/Ensuring access to education for migrant students/Reducing remittances costs

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISING - OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### ON CIVIL SOCIETY CONNECTING

The structure of the Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting was designed to pay particular attention to identifying not only messages that were global and common across regions, but also emphases and nuances that are more region-specific in the formulation and context of certain issues. In the Civil Society conference, Roula Hamati presented a clear overview of crosscutting or particular issues across all regions:

- The **issues that most cut across and were common to the regional consultations** are: return and reintegration, non-criminalization, detention, regularization, mixed migration, labor mobility and decent work, others were prominent in 2 or 3 regions, such as drivers (Africa, Asia, pacific), contributions of migrants (Europe, Africa, Asia) and racism and xenophobia (Africa, Europe L.A), access to Justice (L.A.).
- Among the **issues with region-specific emphases or nuances**, there was strong concern expressed to note, preserve and insist on no regression from standards that are currently higher in South America than in other regions or globally with respect to detention, return and temporary or circular migration
- The **challenge** is that it is strategic to have a global advocacy document that is concise and global in scope. At the same time global civil society positioning must do justice to important regional achievements or advocacy goals.

### NEXT POTENTIAL STEPS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY:

1. Go ahead with the existing plan to issue a **next version of the *Now and How Ten Acts*** document that incorporates the principal priorities of the regional civil society consultations. This can take the form of any or all of the following:
  - Adding, as originally planned, an **annex** with the two-side summaries of each regional consultation's principal priorities
  - Inserting directly into a newly titled ***Annotated Now and How Ten Acts*** a small number of three- or four-sentence **text boxes** that emphasize higher standards that currently exist and an insistence on no regression, or other regional nuances and priorities directly below the corresponding section
  - Including a **clause prior to signatories** that ensures no regression to regional realities and existing policies.
2. Building civil society organizing and advocacy on key themes and priorities. As suggested by Monami Maulik of the Global Coalition on Migration and further picked up by Laurel Townhead of the Quakers UN Office (QUNO): the idea of **establishing reference groups on certain issues**:
  - invite civil society actors with common interest, and then within that group those with shared objectives, not to develop a joint messages (this work is done) but to help drive (not “coordinate”) effective advocacy by fostering connection, full and steady coverage of issues, information sharing and strategizing for the negotiations.
  - initial thematic groups suggested by QUNO:

- a) Vulnerability/migrants in vulnerable situations
- b) Firewalls
- c) Returns (in particular safeguards)
- d) Follow up, accountability, governance
- e) Other?

[Laurel has asked to send your expression of interest to her ([ltownhead@quno.ch](mailto:ltownhead@quno.ch)) by the **5th of January**.]

3. For the **coordinators of the regional civil society consultations, and others in the regions**, to discuss how to strategically communicate on common issues and regional priorities and specificities, and to look at concrete tools to do so, e.g.:
  - further elaborate a document that highlights regional commonalities and nuances per theme
  - look at a few key issues from the regional perspective and work out detailed language and practices to sustain recommendations made at the global level, and in the different clusters – see above.
  
4. Government **“Surround Sound” matrix**
  - add to the matrix any governments that also should strategically be targeted (not all 193 UN member states!)
  - if possible add some kind of simple detail on which issues with which governments.
  - explore realistically the ideal of keeping full and up-to-date indications on what the governments are saying, which would require great capacity and chasing after people, and may not be necessary if someone else is doing and sharing that kind of information. *Consider this carefully with civil society partners.*
  - significantly increase the columns with the names of civil society organizations and networks that promise to advocate directly with governments, especially in New York, “at home” and in capitals
  - consider making the Surround Sound matrix available on-line
  - explore synergies (and if possible avoid unnecessary duplication) with government advocacy lists that other civil society advocacy strategies and partners may be organizing, including ICVA towards the Refugee Compact and the Child Rights Initiative towards both Compacts.
  
5. **Information sharing and listserv for Civil Society Stocktaking Puerto Vallarta**
  - ICMC will ensure that all the civil society participants in this meeting are included in the **mailing list** for information updates from the Action Committee, which will be active as of February 2018. *To add anyone to this mailing list, please email: [info@madenetwork.org](mailto:info@madenetwork.org)*
  - Everyone is welcome to use the email list of civil society participants in the meeting

6. **Next step: New York for a civil society gathering, capacity building and advocacy on the zero draft?**

IF current fundraising is successful, ICMC MADE is contemplating organizing a **next civil society gathering in New York in March, after the publication of the zero draft** of the GCM. This would center on building capacity for political organizing and advocacy, first, with Permanent Missions in New York during those days, but even more, with governments at home and in capitals. If others see funding possibilities or have already been able to secure funds or other resources for this, it would be good to discuss opportunities to collaborate.



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**Annex 1: distribution tables with governments and civil society, Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting - 3 December 2017, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico**

(List distribution as prepared ahead of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ad-hoc modifications not incorporated).

<b>Theme</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Civil society</b>
<b>ACT 1: Drivers of human mobility</b>	Ecuador, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, UNECA	Sarnata Reynolds, Emeka Obiezu, Ousmane Diarra, Oliver Toohey, Mamadou Diouf, Carol Barton, Nunu Kidane
<b>ACT 2: Safe pathways for human mobility</b>	European Union, Gambia (tbc), Italy, Netherlands, Mexico, Ireland, United Kingdom	Sarah Khatib, Amaf Yousef, Syed Saiful, Injy Salem, Kevin Appleby, Raisa Cetra, Solene Bedaux
<b>ACT 3: Protection</b>	Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Ireland, Holy See	Carl Kristianson, Anna Crowley, Catherine Tactaquin, Carolina Gottardo, Margie Simo, Pierre Verberen, Abdulkarim Albrem, Daniela Reale, Gabrielle Liguri, Silvia Gomez Moradillo
<b>ACT 4: Decent work and labor rights</b>	Sweden, Philippines, Germany, Australia, Holy See United Kingdom	Ellene Sana, William Gois, Neha Misra, Elizabeth Mauldin, Roula Hamati, Alejandra Ancheita, Getro Mathieu
<b>ACT 5: Decent living conditions and access to justice</b>	UAE, Belgium, France, Dominican Republic	Alejandra Nuno, Monami Maulik, Lizeth Lema
<b>ACT 6: Education and skills</b>	UAE, Germany, Thailand, Sweden	Aumaiya Islam, Gemma Adaba, Pierre Cazenave
<b>ACT 7: Inclusion and action against discrimination</b>	European Union, Ecuador, Canada, Portugal, Dominican Republic	Misun Kim, Pefi Kingi, Janet Valverde Hernandez, Debbie Douglas, Ignacio Packer
<b>ACT 8: Transnational and sustainable development</b>	Switzerland, Gambia (tbc), Thailand, Canada, United Kingdom,	Sainabou Taal, Efrain Jiminez, Gibril Faal
<b>ACT 9: Rights, return and reintegration</b>	European Union, Nigeria (tbc), Sweden, Canada, Mexico, Netherlands	James Campbell, Mariane Quintao, Christian Wolff, Tomas Jungwirth, Ana Macouzet, Michele Levoy, Diana Delencia, Lariza Dugan
<b>ACT 10: Governance, implementation and monitoring</b>	European Union, Switzerland, Canada, Netherlands, Sweden	Alessio Mirra, Kathleen Newland, Perseo Quiroz, Mpilo Shange Buthane, John Bingham, Laurel Townhead