

STRENGTHENING STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS' COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GCM: EXPERIENCES OF MULTIPLE ACTORS' COLLABORATION

Every human person is endowed with rights and dignity; let us cooperate with the GCM and change the face of migration.

1 ORGANIZER(S): Government of Nigeria through its National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) in collaboration with conglomeration of Civil Society Organizations and Networks: Civil Society Network on Migration and Development (CSOnetMADE); Pan African Network in Defense of Migrants' Rights (PANiDMR); Sisters of Notre Dame deNamur (SNDdeN); Curia Generalizia Agostiniana – Augustinians Internationa (AI), Center for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI)

2 BACKGROUND: The African proverb states that “when spider webs unite they can tie a lion.” Collaboration among multiple actors of varied focuses has been a proven strength of mobilizing advocacy and actions on issues of interest. The GFMD and GCM have provided enabling forum for such collaboration that have been extended beyond the event days. Many states, organizations and civil societies that met themselves at the GFMD forums have gone further to create various collaborative frameworks at local, regional, global and thematic levels.

Government of Nigeria is constantly establishing numerous migration-related bilateral and multilateral relationships with countries and organizations that have yielded commendable result albeit their challenges. Nigeria continues to enjoy the technical support of many agencies such as International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in dealing with emerging migration issues. Again, through the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), the coordinating agency of all migration-related issues in the country, Nigeria has developed a productive framework of inclusive participation of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, towards an effective migration management in the country.

Similarly, various CSOs have at their own respective levels and capacities developed architecture for collaboration among themselves as well as with states and other non-state actors. These collaborations were impactful in the different stages of the GCM process aided by the all inclusive approach and emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships adopted by the GCM process. Such collaboration was evident especially at the consultative stages, national, regional and thematic as well as the stocktaking and intergovernmental negotiations.

The same collaboration is much more needed in the post-Marrakech periods of implementation, monitoring and reviews. Effective delivery of the GCM relies strongly in a transparent, accountable and common result oriented approach. These are characteristics of an all-inclusive paradigm that aligns the overarching objectives and goals of GCM to realistic national and organizational priorities. Adopting this approach will promote coherence; remove institutional blockades; motivate and sustain the enthusiasm of all relevant actors to ensure we deliver as one.

2.1 Over forty-five participants drawn from representatives of States, CSOs and other stakeholders gathered on December 08, 2018 in an interactive sharing event to leverage the positive experiences of multi-stakeholders convening and collaboration during the GCM process,

to explore ways to strengthen State and Non-state Actors Cooperation as effective strategy that would drive inclusive participation in the GCM implementation, monitoring and reviews. This responds to item 23 of the objectives for safe, orderly and regular migration, namely: “strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.”

2.2 This side event provided state and non-state actors with the modalities of convening partnerships and collaborations at different levels, especially at national and local levels, which would ensure an effective inclusive participation in the implementation, monitoring and review of the GCM. These were derived from experiences of cooperation between state and non-state actors.

3. Highlights

3.1. Snapshot of Discussants’ input

Hajia Sadiya Umar Farouq, Federal Commissioner, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, Nigeria (NCFRMI): “International migration dynamics continues to evolve. Its reality is crosscutting and its challenges are becoming more complex and overwhelming. As countries or organizations, we deal with these realities and challenges within the limit of our capacities and resources. But more and more, it is becoming obvious that we need cooperation, collaboration and partnerships to succeed in this endeavour. This has to happen beyond our traditional circle of friends and allies to include formerly non-allies.” “Cooperation, partnership and collaboration of multiple actors, state and non-state have been significant part of the success and also the means to success in the global governance of migration.”

Louise Arbour, UN Secretary General Special Representative on International Migration: Since the UN Summit on the Large Movement of Refugees and Migrants in 2016, countries have put in so much in partnership and cooperation towards better management of human mobility. The GCM as our working framework has helped countries to recognize the complex realities on the ground in respect to human mobility. Member States have since then tried to understand the concerns of each other as discussions by member states are anchored on fact and evidence. Cooperative and partnership approach must be adopted in a coherent and sustainable manner from the local to the global level.

Ahmed Hussein, Canadian Immigration Minister: International cooperation, collaboration and partnership are very essential to a well managed migration. It is only with working with other countries in mutual cooperation and partnership that we can effectively respond to the crisis of irregular migration. “One of the things we do is work with partner countries to assist them with job creation and skills development that enables sources countries for migrants to ensure a better future for their people there that they do not have to take risky journeys for migration and engage in irregular migration.” The GCM offers us the framework for the international cooperation and partnership.

Chukwu emeka Chikezie MBE/ Director Up! Governments’ cooperation with NGO’s and Intergovernmental Organization is the fundamental basis for cooperation on migration. Genuine dialogue is seminal to cooperation and partnership. It enables partners understand each other’s goals and objectives. If partnership has to be sustained and result-oriented, then there should be mutual respects for every human person. Integrity of all partners especially the governments is necessary for achieving success in the implementation of the GCM. For nations to move forward in migration management, we need to involve and engage the business dimension. The GCM

framework ought to be more specific thereby picking up all the challenges related to mobility from the business perspective.

Ms. Lebohang Liepollo Pheko (PANiDMR): Meeting of minds is needed for cooperation and collaboration to happen. The GCM is reflective of this. There has never been a robust history of civil society engagement by states and reaching a consensus has always been difficult. States necessarily have to develop that relationship if the Compact is to stand the test of time.

Jill Heilke (Director of the department of international cooperation and partnership at IOM): GCM has provided how migration activities would be done, the need for consultation with critical stakeholders and relevance of partnership in the implementation of the Compact. Hence, state actors are to utilize the availability of this framework in curbing issues of migration.

Mohammed Ali ILO: Countries have to come to agreement on what they want to do in migration management and work towards achieving it. This can only be done through an improved collaboration.

Ambassador Baba Garba, Nigeria Ambassador to Morocco: Trust, mutual respect and transparency are the driving force of any partnership, cooperation and collaboration. When any of these is lacking the relationship obviously becomes problematic. These are evident in the experiences of Nigeria and their allies in migration managements.

3.2. Priority issues

- The availability of GCM as a tool for the actualization of better movement of persons in all countries
- State collaboration and partnership with civil societies
- Countries to adopt approaches and strategies for the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration
- Enhancing the knowledge of people on GCM from global level to community level
- Engaging public and private sectors (business) in the GCM implementation process

3.3. Challenges

- Lack of trust between government, CSO's and IGO's
- The kind of language and terms used by host states on migrants
- The push and pull factor
- Inability to reach a consensus/agreement on what to do by states and multi-stakeholders
- Lack of involvement of the different sectors (business in particular) in migration issues

3.4. Opportunities / good practices / innovations for the way forward

- Availability of working relationship between NGO's and government institutions
- Availability of other legal instruments which can be used during the implementation of the GCM
- Existing partnership and collaboration between states such as the ones Nigeria has with Italy, Switzerland, and other countries respectively, as well as other best practices obtainable from states.
- Presence of CSO's with relevant expertise and capacity to advocate on various issues in migration

- Investment interest of business in migration

3.5. Relevance to the Global Compact for Migration and its follow-up, implementation and review

- Collation of appropriate data on activities carried out and holding states accountable to the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration
- Knowledge sharing in order words, creating awareness of the GCM
- To make both local and regional levels have same shared vision of the GCM and develop the capacities of developing countries
- To reinforce the role of CSOs; create work programmes that will allow change of the basic problems on ground.
- Encouraging all states to have a mechanism they can work with as well as keep up the momentum and habit of consultation between states, civil societies and other relevant actors.
- To identify gaps and involve all stakeholders, state and non-state actors in the implementation of the Compact as well as creating a space for greater cooperation with CSOs
- Creating fraternal partnership with all host countries involved on the implementation of the Compact since all states have been encouraged to enhance migration management.
- To have a global vision as well as set up programmes geared towards implementation of the GCM and bridging gaps associated with migration.
- Developing national policies to support the GCM framework as obtainable in Ghana and Nigeria



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