

Follow up and review

What should follow-up and review entail? The global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration (GCM) will require a robust review mechanism that can measure progress made on the objectives and actionable commitments. Such a mechanism must build on the commitments set out in the New York Declaration (NYD), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant obligations.

Accountability is a core element in any democratic system. Follow-up and review fundamentally relates to ensuring accountability for actions or inactions towards rights-holders, including migrants themselves and communities of origin, transit and destination. This must be a collaborative effort to identify areas for improvement or revision, in addition to measuring progress achieved. In order to ensure that effective use can be made of the findings, review processes should be periodic and systematic. Periodic review processes could also assess the substantive content of the GCM and reflect progress in common understandings and normative developments as appropriate.

A review mechanism must therefore allow for monitoring, to provide specific scrutiny of the human and labour rights, economic, social and other impacts. The role of civil society actors, the international human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, and trade unions can be particularly important in assessing and feeding back information on the impacts of national, regional and global measures on the ground, allowing for an evidence-based, bottom-up and participatory analysis. Review must also provide for the participation of all relevant actors including migrants themselves, in recognition that migration is quintessentially a whole-of society and whole-of-government issue.

Where should follow-up and review take place? Review should take place within or build upon existing mechanisms. At the global level, the Zero Draft Plus suggests a forum for review through a repurposed High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD). It should be recalled that the 2013 Declaration of the HLD recognized that international migration is a crosscutting phenomenon and that it should be addressed in a coherent, comprehensive and balanced manner (para 1). Global review forums should also build on the NYD, in which Member States recognized the need for systematic follow-up and review of the commitments made, requesting the Secretary-General to provide periodic assessments to the General Assembly and agreeing on the HLD as a forum for review (paras. 88-89).

The NYD and modalities on the process to adopt the GCM have also reflected the willingness amongst Member States to discuss migration under the auspices of the United Nations, which is the universal forum founded to enable Member States' interactions and discussions on international cooperation on economic, social, cultural, humanitarian and human rights issues (UN Charter, Article 1). A technical and working platform, within the context of the General Assembly, could for example enable systematic interaction between all stakeholders on a broad range of migration issues, to identify policy gaps and emerging issues. This does not limit the opportunity for other for a, including those that are outside the UN, to contribute to the review process according to their modalities and mandate, but rather ensures the broadest platform for interaction.

As most migration takes place within regions, follow-up and review at the regional level is an important aspect of addressing regional specificities. Regional review mechanisms should similarly be able to address all dimensions of migration, including promotion and protection of human rights, and ensure a transparent and participatory space in which all relevant actors are able to engage.

At the national level, review processes will be most effective through a whole-of-government approach, which addresses migration governance as a crosscutting issue affecting a range of sectors. Review should examine national laws, regulations, policies, national action plans or other measures, ensuring that migration-specific and human rights aspects are adequately integrated. National civil society actors, including migrants themselves, national human rights institutions, cities and local government play a particularly important role in review and monitoring at the national level. States should therefore ensure regular and participatory consultation processes and establish multi-stakeholder mechanisms as part of their review process.