

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Procedural Note for the Sixth Informal Thematic Session: “Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures”

**Geneva, 12-13 October 2017
Palais des Nations, Conference room XIX**

I. Introduction

In resolution A/RES/71/280 “Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration”, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the Secretary-General and by drawing on the expertise of the International Organization for Migration in particular, other members of the Global Migration Group and other relevant entities, to organize a series of informal thematic sessions on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration that shall address, but not be limited to, the elements outlined in annex II, paragraph 8, of its resolution A/RES/71/1.

The sixth informal thematic session will address irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures.

II. Format

The informal thematic session will be held over the course of two days from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and will be co-chaired by the co-facilitators. The session will include brief welcoming remarks, the presentation of the issue brief, three expert panels, a summary panel discussion, and closing remarks.

a. Welcoming remarks

The co-facilitators will make welcoming remarks presenting the informal thematic session (ten minutes).

b. Presentation of the issue brief

The Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference will present the inter-agency issue brief for the informal thematic session.

c. Expert panels

Each expert panel will be moderated by a Member State, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 17 of resolution A/RES/71/280. The moderator will open and close each expert panel and ensure the interactive nature of the discussions. The opening remarks from the moderator will be of five to seven minutes.

There will be three experts on each panel. Each expert will make a brief introductory presentation on the theme (five to seven minutes each). Panelists will be asked to briefly frame the issues to be discussed in their panel session, and to include in their remarks relevant facts and figures related to the scope of the issues to be discussed, highlight gaps in policy and implementation, and identify priorities for action.

The presentations of the panelists will be followed by an interactive discussion led by the moderator. During the discussions, delegations may ask questions and provide comments to the panelists or provide brief observations on the theme. The limit for interventions from the floor is three minutes. There will not be a pre-inscribed speakers' list.

The interactive discussion will include alternating segments between Member States and panelists. Other accredited stakeholders may participate in accordance with resolution A/RES/71/280.

On taking the floor, all participants are encouraged to reflect on effective national, regional and international policies, key policy priorities, data collection and disaggregation (by age, sex and migratory status) as well as capacities for implementation. Participants are encouraged to provide examples of good practices and multi-stakeholder partnerships and to present actions and commitments to inform the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

The moderator will provide concluding remarks at the end of each panel (five to seven minutes), summarizing the main points discussed, any conclusions, and issues of major relevance to the interactive discussion.

The precise structure of each expert panel is outlined in the attached agenda.

d. Summary panel

At the conclusion of the three expert panels, a summary panel composed of the three moderators and a thematic expert will be co-chaired by the co-facilitators. The moderators of each panel will provide their perspectives of the various views expressed during their panel discussions (ten to fifteen minutes each). The thematic expert will then provide remarks about the interlinkages and overarching themes between the panels, as well as offer ideas for further discussion, potential commitments to consider and options for ways forward (fifteen minutes). The co-facilitators will then open the floor to reactions and comments from Member States, who may in turn also ask questions and bring forward recommendations regarding the substantive topic of the informal thematic session.

e. Closing

At the conclusion of the summary panel, the co-facilitators will outline conclusions of the informal thematic session and briefly inform about the next steps.

f. Side events

Side events may be organized during the lunch break (1:15 pm to 2:45 pm) or preceding or following the plenary sessions. Organizers of side events are responsible for making their own arrangements but are encouraged to coordinate their plans with the office of the Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference.

ANNEX 1: Agenda

Day 1

Time	Concept
10.00-10.15	Opening segment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome remarks by the co-facilitators ▪ Remarks by the Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference
10.15-13.00	PANEL 1: Irregular migration and regular pathways This panel will examine ways of reducing the incidence of irregular migration, including through the promotion and expansion of safe, orderly and regular migration pathways. The panel will also share ways of analyzing consequences and effects of migration laws and policies, as well as innovative practices relating to family reunification, regularization, transition from informal to the formal economy, and labour market needs testing. The impacts of irregular migration in countries of origin, transit and destination will also be explored, as well as ways of addressing the consequences. The panel will highlight different human mobility arrangements implemented as part of planned and well-managed migration policies.
13.00-15.00	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Lunch Space for Side Events </div>
15.00-18.00	PANEL 2: Decent work and labour mobility This panel will discuss the promotion of labour migration that benefits societies of origin, transit and destination, and protects the rights of migrant workers and their families, particularly women, youth and those in precarious employment. The panel will examine ways to promote and facilitate regular labour mobility, including circular, temporary and permanent migration, including through bilateral and regional arrangements. It will further explore ways to safeguard and realize decent work for migrant workers to enhance the development outcomes for them and their families, as well as for countries of origin, transit and destination. The panel will focus on reducing the costs of labour migration, fair and ethical recruitment, comprehensive national labour migration policies aligned with international standards, and social protection.

Day 2

Time	Concept
10.00-13.00	PANEL 3: Recognition of skills and qualifications and relevant measures This panel will discuss ways to address labour market needs and skills shortages at all skill levels in both countries of destination and origin, through regular pathways for migration. The panel will explore good practices for facilitating the interjurisdictional recognition and validation of qualifications, skills and competencies, as well as prior learning of migrant workers to ensure optimal mobility and matching of these skills to available jobs. This panel will further examine how public employment services, employers and the private sector, public-private partnerships, trade unions and other civil society actors can support skills mobility.
13.00-15.00	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Lunch Space for Side Events </div>
15.00-17.50	SUMMARY PANEL: Synopsis of the main conclusions and outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moderators present the key recommendations resulting from their panels ▪ Thematic expert, having followed both days, provides a short overview of the main discussions and the interlinkages between the panels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Interactive exchange between the moderators, the thematic expert and Member States on the outcomes of the session
17.50-18.00	Closing remarks by the co-facilitators