

# The Global Compact for Migration: development, tensions and opportunities

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# The Global Compact for Migration

- Origins in NY Declaration 2016
- First ever global instrument to coordinate the governance of international migration
- Historic achievement
- Migration guided by common principles and approaches
- Non-binding but normative potential
- Equally relevant for ALL people on the move



# The Global Compact for Migration

- Formal UN Negotiation process
- Led by co-facilitators from Mexico and Switzerland
- Ample consultation process
- To be adopted in December 2018  
in Morocco
- Civil society stakeholder in GCM's development
- Near global consensus on adoption





# Achievements in the GCM

- Strong human rights based approach
- Gender responsive and women's leadership not vulnerability
- Focus on best interest of the child and safeguarding children's rights
- Commitment to work to end child detention and emphasise alternatives to detention
- Pathways for regularization
- Protecting migrants in vulnerable situations.
- Promoting decent work and labour rights
- Data collection disaggregated
- Investing in sustainable development at national and local levels and linking with SDGs



# Gaps in the GCM

- Failing to fully address complementarity with the GCR
- Non mentioning non-refoulement directly despite including the meaning of the concept
- Lack of strong language on the non-criminalization of migrants and those that support them.
- No direct mention of firewalls to access services and limited scope for access to services for undocumented migrants
- No mention of sexual and reproductive health



# Australia and the GCM

- Uncertainty about adoption
- Vocal influencer and large delegation
- Achieved some of its objectives
- Portrayed itself as having the “best managed migration policies in the world”
- Deterrence, sovereignty and border control
- Co-option of human rights and gender



# Australia and the GCM

- Favoring temporary status over permanency
- Visa cancellations
- Externalization of borders and turning back the boats
- Detention and removal
- Calls for lower provision of settlement services and migrant self-reliance
- Racism and xenophobia targeting specific groups and watering down racial discrimination





# Implementation, follow up and review

- Potential of GCM to the lives of migrants, refugees and people on the move
- As good as its implementation: real effects on the ground
- Whole of society approach: migrants and civil society
- Participative National Action plans
- Connection of local, national, regional and global
- Rights based approach of IOM
- Effective UN Migration Network
- Specific initiatives to showcase and new to develop
- Key to rise to the challenge!



Thanks for your attention!

Questions?

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