



Civil Society Engagement with States in the Global Compact for Migration

INNOVATION AND NEW CHALLENGES

IOM: Engaging Civil Society in the GCM

- ▶ Creation of Independent **Civil Society Liaison** Role
- ▶ Modalities Resolution (A/RES/71/280):
 - ▶ “...effective contributions from... and active participation of all relevant stakeholders... including the convening of multi-stakeholder **consultations**... and participation at global, **regional**, sub-regional platforms.” (*paragraph 7*)
- ▶ Civil Society Discrepancy:
 - ▶ “BINGOs”: well-resourced and staffed, offices in New York / Geneva etc., well-informed, good access to global policy-makers
 - ▶ Grassroots: under-resourced, voluntary, migrant-led, based in national capitals away from Global North, makes up large majority of work, invisible in global policy-setting

2017 RCSCs: Voices of Grassroots Civil Society

- ▶ To balance civil society information and engagement, **7 Regional Civil Society Consultations (RCSCs)** in 2017:
 - ▶ Asia (Bangkok, 4-5 Aug), MENA (Beirut, 24-25 Aug), Africa (Bamako, 28-29 August), N. America (Washington DC, 25-26 Sept), Europe (Brussels, 2-3 Oct), Latin Am. (Quito, 5-6 Oct), Pacific (2-3 Nov)
 - ▶ 30-80 participants each, 400+ participants from 70 countries
 - ▶ Limited government presence (exception of Mali)
 - ▶ For Africa, Asia, MENA: representatives participated and/or reported in RECs' consultations (ECA, ESCAP, ESCWA) – critical for knowledge cross-fertilization and cohesion of positions and inputs

2017 GCM Thematic Sessions and Stakeholder Hearings

- ▶ Thematic Sessions:
 - ▶ Too little, too late: One or two interventions at end of each session, at discretion of chair, randomly selected
 - ▶ Special 1hr session with co-facilitators on second day, some states attended, became template for negotiations phase
- ▶ Stakeholder Hearings:
 - ▶ Separate but Unequal: Few states participated, distinct themes, little to no funding, poor timing

December 2017 Stocktaking, Mexico

- ▶ 2017 GFMD CSD in Berlin focused entirely on GCM
- ▶ September **Civil Society Core Group** retreat in Vienna (Sept 2017): focused on advocacy on GCM with states
- ▶ **Civil Society Stocktaking** followed GFMD CSD model: 2 days, prior to Stocktaking, independently organized (ICMC + Core Group), funded by IOM with EU funds
 - ▶ Special dialogue session with co-facilitators: stress on innovation, focus on negotiating states' consensus
 - ▶ 2nd day focused on joint dialogue with states: 55 govt participants, 23 states, open panel followed by working group discussions, greater cohesion in positions
- ▶ During Stocktaking, fell back on Thematic Sessions model of interventions but more assertive insistence for civil society voice by each session chair

2018 GCM Negotiations

- ▶ Formal negotiations – states only
- ▶ Special 1hr session with co-facilitators – over-popular, CFs asked for more focus on
- ▶ IOM continued support for CS regional focal points at every round:
 - ▶ Changed dynamic of civil society
 - ▶ Raised issues that would otherwise would be dulled or silent (ex. climate change by Pacific rep)
 - ▶ Met with state reps from respective regions along sidelines
- ▶ Civil society advocacy began to support stronger Compact language, align and support some states, challenged other states

Looking forward to GCM IFuR

- ▶ UN Network design and architecture – where does civil society fit?
- ▶ CS-IOM Working Group on IFuR: Ensuring strong modalities and mechanisms for engagement in IFuR
 - ▶ Looking at various UN models and experiences: IASC, Agenda 2030 Major Groups, UNFCCC etc.
 - ▶ Proposal for a standalone stakeholder platform that is independent and directly relates to UN Network
 - ▶ Various civil society groups currently producing inputs and recommendations
- ▶ Question remains how does CS engage with states at global, regional, national levels

Lessons Learned, Taking It Forward

- ▶ Opportunities:
 - ▶ UN Network and new compact offer opportunity for clean slate and innovation
 - ▶ Precedent set, especially promoted by CFs, to be innovative and find ways to cooperate outside rigid procedures that are ineffective
 - ▶ In current global political context, there is enthusiasm among GCM supporters (civil society and govt) to make it work
- ▶ Challenges:
 - ▶ Civil society undergoing realignment and reorganization at global level
 - ▶ With return to Geneva, danger of falling back into old, ineffective NGO ways of working there
 - ▶ What happens at the global level does not necessarily trickle down to regional/national levels