



International Migration Law (IML) NGO Learning Initiative

Session 11 – Tuesday, 15 June 2021, 3-4.30pm CEST

The Global Compacts

In September 2016, recognising the challenges in adequately responding to large-scale population movements, the General Assembly (GA) of the United Nations (UN) adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (New York Declaration). The New York Declaration contains a number of important commitments and concrete plans to realise these commitments, including the development and adoption of two Global Compacts.

In the two years that followed the adoption of the New York Declaration, States negotiated the GCM and were formally consulted on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Both compacts were voted on by States in December 2018. Though not all States voted in favour, both Global Compacts were adopted or affirmed by the majority of States.

The Global Compacts are not legally binding. However, they have the potential to advance significantly the rights of migrant and refugees. Recognising the principle of State sovereignty, both compacts provide important guidance on measures to be undertaken for the benefit of refugees, migrants and the communities of host and destination countries. The Global Compacts are based on and reflect international law, including the United Nations (UN) Charter, refugee law and international human rights law

Three years after the adoption of both Compacts, and one year ahead of the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) which will evaluate the progress of implementation of the GCM for the first time, this IML session will focus on both compacts, including discussing their content, the links between them, and their implementation, with a specific attention to engagement by civil society.

Objective of the session: Participants will learn about the GCM and GCR, the links between them, their implementation, and engagement by civil society.

Speakers:

- **Stéphane Jaquemet**, Director of Policy, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- **Ian Matthew Kysel**, Director, International Migrants Bill of Rights (IMBR)

Moderator: **Clara Keller-Skupien**, Policy Officer, Civil Society Action Committee Secretariat, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)

Format:

- ⇒ *Introduction:* **Clara Keller-Skupien** (8')
- ⇒ *First speaker:* **Ian Matthew Kysel, IMBR** (20')
 - Overview of the GCM and GCR
 - Connection with existing legal frameworks
- ⇒ *Second Speaker:* **Stéphane Jaquemet, ICMC** (20')



- The global compacts and civil society
 - Regional and national examples of advocacy
- ⇒ Questions and Answers (Q&A) session (30')
- ⇒ *Closing remarks: Clara Keller-Skupien (8')*

Essential Reading:

- [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM), 13 July 2018
- [Global Compact on Refugees](#), (GCR), UNHCR, 2018
- [An Introduction to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), Civil Society Action Committee, November 2018
- [The Promise and Potential of the Global Compact on Refugees](#), Volker Türk, *International Journal of Refugee Law*, Volume 30, Issue 4, December 2018, Pages 575-583
- [Towards a Mobile and Diverse World: 'Facilitating Mobility' as a Central Objective of the Global Compact on Migration](#), François Crépeau, *International Journal of Refugee Law*, Volume 30, Issue 4, December 2018, Pages 650-656

Other Background Reading:

- [International Journal of Refugee Law](#), The 2018 Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration, Volume 30, Issue 4, December 2018
- [A guide - children & the Global Compacts on refugees & migration Understanding what's in the Compacts and how to engage with them](#), Destination Unknown, 2021
- [COVID-19 and the Global Compact for Migration: Is a Compact born in a crisis born again in the whirlwinds of three global crises?](#), Mixed Migration Centre, September 2020
- [Civil Society 2019 Engagement in Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Implementation with a Post-COVID-19 Outlook](#), Civil Society Action Committee, June 2020
- [THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION AND THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES](#), *International Migration*, special issue, IOM, December 2019
- [Blog series on the Global Compact for Migration](#), Refugee Law Initiative Blog on Refugee Law and Forced Migration, Elspeth Guild (Queen Mary University of London) and Tugba Basaran (University of Cambridge)