

# Civil Society Models of Engagement in a New Era of Migration Governance: Summary of Key Conclusions



**March 2019**

Civil Society Action Committee

# INTRODUCTION

The Action Committee (AC) was convened in 2016 to support the collective organizing and engagement of civil society towards the High Level Summit (HLS) to Address Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees that year. In 2017-2018, the AC members extended the AC's mandate to continue playing this role during the consultation, stock-taking, and negotiations phases of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) primarily, as well as bridging that to advocacy around the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR).

Following the adoption of the GCM in Marrakesh in December 2018, the focus of civil society and all stakeholders has now shifted towards the implementation of the GCM at all levels. In this context, the AC's mandate was extended for 2019 by consensus from its members.

The first priority for the AC during this year is to focus on the **implementation of the GCM**, by offering a space for collective civil society strategy around it. It also keeps its **'bridging' role** with civil society groups working on the Global Compact on Refugees and the Internally Displaced People Work Programme 2020 (IDP WP 2020).

At the same time, the AC is looking **towards the future**, and serves as an interim body to develop a **new model for future civil society engagement**. To prepare for this complex exercise, the AC launched a **consultation** process to look into civil society organising in the new era of international migration governance as of 2019.

As a result of this first phase of consultation, a **report** ("*Civil Society Models of Engagement in a New Era of Migration Governance*") was presented to the AC by an **independent consultant, Hermione Garelli**. It is based on a series of interviews and consultations with broad civil society, including during the Civil Society Days of the GFMD 2018 in Marrakesh.

What follows is a **summary of the key conclusions of the report**. Listed below are the (a) objectives, (b) structure, and (c) roadmap identified by the consultant in her research. [These are recommendations made to civil society](#) (not the actual final result yet) on how a new structure could look like to ensure more efficient and inclusive engagement in the future.

For more background, references, and all other information about this process, please visit our website: <https://www.csengagement.org/>. There you will find the full version of the consultant's report, a condensed power point presentation, and other related information and materials. For any additional questions or to give further feedback, please contact the Action Committee Coordinator, [Colin Rajah](mailto:Colin_Rajah@icmc.net) <rajah@icmc.net>, we look forward to receiving your feedback.

# Suggested objectives

**1: Communicate, Connect and Convene:** share information, analyses and updates on progress of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), policy and political developments, (key meetings, briefings) in order to facilitate effective engagement in GCM implementation on the part of members; bring the national up to the global level.

**2: Collectively Organize:** work closely with members to organize common messages and key joint civil society advocacy pieces building onto specific on-the-ground contexts; join forces strategically.

**3: Capacity Building- Support and Access:** i) *facilitate an increase in the quantity and effectiveness of communications and resources* ii) provide capacity strengthening support to national and regional members iii) nurture embryonic networks and provide more frequent opportunities to engage at the national and regional level.

## **Complementarity: a Guiding Principle for all future models**

This framework is based on the principle of complementarity: rather than replace or asserting influence, the future model will have a **connecting** role over individual action by Action Committee (AC) members, with an emphasis on **facilitation** rather than coordination, thus recognizing the **diversity** of civil society actors.

# Suggested structure

## Executive Board (5-6 Organizations)

Create a small Board with executive oversight and decision-making authority responsible for leading, managing and developing the future model. The Board composition should represent equally civil society at all levels and it could be subject to be re-election (on two-year terms). Observers could be invited to take part to the Board meetings and Minutes should be publicised).

## Steering Committee (20-30 Organizations)

Limited membership with thematic and regional representation for strategy and decision-making; high-level advisory to support the Board and act as a guide to the wide-ranging work of the working groups, and to share, coordinate and field information to the benefit of all members. Meeting monthly (webinar).

## Membership (criteria-based)

Criteria for membership, cemented in by-laws, could enable a self-selecting and broad-ranging membership with wide-ranging access to the wealth of information provided (notably through development of online database). Information sharing should be done 'far and wide,' including placing responsibility on members themselves to share, upload, manage and analyze information and make it relevant to their context. All members will be consulted during the course of any decision-making.

## Secretariat

As to date, with recognition that progressive expansion of activities will require expanded Global Secretariat capacity. In addition to the one/two current staff, further functions will be linked to the adoption of the further activities corresponding to the three main objectives.

## Working groups: Development of collective civil society priorities

Based on Objective 2, 3-4 Working Groups can be launched. They should be time-bound (6 months) and focused on specific thematic priority areas and enable greater accessibility and relevance to members whilst simultaneously enabling the future model's remit over a broad range of thematic priorities. There could be self-selecting membership with two elected co-convenors responsible for the management of the group's work, (but without extra decision-making power), limited sign-up by members (e.g. 12-15 members per working group).

# Roadmap

The following next steps and stages are proposed to move forward the current status of the AC and into the Future Model, keeping in mind a final deadline to incorporate the Future Model by 1 January 2020.

- I. Report Review and Finalization by AC (February) (including AC meeting in New York)
- II. Report Presentation and Consultation Webinar to other civil society (March – early April)
- III. Report Presentation to Funders, Member States and UN Agencies (early April)
- IV. Civil Society Consultation Stage 2 (May – July)
- V. Future Model Concept Stage 2 (August – mid-October)
- VI. Future Model Pilot Drafting (end October – early November)
- VII. Future Model Presentation at GFMD Quito (mid-November)

Future Model Actualization and Implementation (January-March 2020)

# Your feedback!

Guiding questions:

Objectives:

- What do you think of the suggested objectives of the Future Model? Which one(s) SHOULD the Future Model do / focus on, and why? Is there anything you think should NOT be the Future Model's focus?
- Do you know of any existing organisations, networks, or other arrangements, which already have any of these objectives (obj. 3 in particular)?

Structure:

- What do you think of the proposed structure?
- Is it too light or too heavy? Why?
- Do you think the Future Model needs membership criteria? If yes, what should they be and why? If not, do you have any further thoughts on membership?
- Should there be an Executive Board and Steering Committee as proposed? If yes, how should the Executive Board and Steering Committee members be selected and why? How can we ensure geographical, capacity balances?
- Are there alternative forms of governance or structure you would propose instead of these?

Do you have any other comments or ideas regarding the Future Model? Let us know!



## Thank you!

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