

14th Steering Committee Meeting of 14 October 2025

Summary of Decisions

PARTICIPANTS

Chair of the Steering Committee:

- **Catalina Devandas**, (IOM - Special Envoy for the IMRF)

Member States:

- **Mr. Fazle Lohani BABU** (Bangladesh – Counsellor)
- **H.E. Rina Yessenia Lozano Gallegos** (El Salvador - Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Geneva)
- **Francis Lenarum**, (Kenya – Labour Attache)

Donors:

- **Ms. Annabel Gerry**, (United Kingdom – FCDO, Head of Migration and Demining)
- **Mr. Kasper Thams**, (Denmark - Head of Department for Migration, Peace and Stabilisation)

Stakeholders:

- **Ms. Stella Opoku-Owusu** (African Foundation for Development - Deputy Director)
- **Ms. Ellene Sana** (Migrant Forum in Asia / Center for Migrant Advocacy)
- **Rev. Jack Amick** (UMCOR - Director of Global Migration)

United Nations:

- **Mr. Nourou Tall** (FAO - Senior Liaison Officer)
- **Mr. John Brandolino** (UNODC – Director of Treaty Affairs)
- **Mr. Nicolas Brass**, (UNHCR - Senior Policy Advisor and Head of the Global Compact on Refugees Section)

Ex-officio members:

- **Mr. Bavo Christiaens** (UNDP MPTF Office – Portfolio Manager)
- **Mr. Philippe Grandet** (Migration MPTF Fund Management Unit - Head)

AGENDA

The Steering Committee had before them the following agenda:

15:00 – 15:05 OPENING REMARKS

- Opening remarks by the Chair.

15:05 – 15:15 OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING STATUS

- Overview of the funding status by the UNDP MPTF Office.

15:15 – 15:40 FUNDRAISING

- Screening of a short video providing a snapshot of the Migration MPTF Programmes.
- Opening of the floor for discussion on fundraising priorities and strategies of the Migration MPTF.

15:40 – 16:00 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL SUPPORT WINDOW

- Introduction by the Chair on the proposal to establish a new Technical Support Window to support the work of the other components of the GCM Capacity Building Mechanism.
- Discussion.

16:00 – 16:10 APPROVAL OF THE TECHNICAL GROUP JOINT RECOMMENDATION

- Presentation by the Head of the FMU for endorsement of the recommendations made by the Technical Group.
- Opening the floor for comments/questions by Steering Committee members.

16:10 – 16:25 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- Presentation by the Chair of a proposed new approach to solicit concept notes.
- Presentation by the Head of the FMU of the status of the current pipeline.

16:25 – 16:30 CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS

- Discussion on next steps.

STEERING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The following is a summary of decisions reached, all by consensus, under each agenda item.

Funding Status and Fundraising

The Administrative Agent presented an overview of the Migration MPTF's financial situation. Since its establishment, total capitalization has reached USD 65.6 million, supported by 21 Member States from both the global North and South. However, income in 2025 remained modest, with USD 2.1 million received during the first three quarters.

During the ensuing discussion, the Steering Committee underlined the shared responsibility for resource mobilization and reaffirmed that the “multi-partner” nature of the Fund should also guide its fundraising efforts.

The Committee identified the 2026 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) as the key milestone for a renewed fundraising campaign and requested the Fund Management Unit (FMU), in coordination with the Technical Group, to develop a plan of action and follow-up steps.

To strengthen collective ownership and governance, the Steering Committee decided to introduce a co-chairing arrangement between the Network Coordinator and a Member State representative. The FMU was requested to coordinate with the Technical Group to agree on a co-chair, with the arrangement to take effect by the end of November and remain in place throughout the IMRF preparatory process.

The Steering Committee acknowledged the US withdrawal from the Fund and considered the possible financial implications.

Proposal to establish a technical support window

The Steering Committee discussed the proposal to establish a **Technical Support Window** within the Migration MPTF to provide sustainable financing for the other two components of the **GCM Capacity Building Mechanism (CBM)** — the **Demand-Driven Facility (DDF)** and the **Hub**.

The Committee recalled that the CBM was designed as a single, coherent framework with three complementary pillars:

- **The Migration MPTF** – pooled financing for joint programmes and systemic initiatives.
- **The DDF** – providing on-demand technical expertise and support to governments.



- **The Hub** – capturing, curating, and sharing peer-reviewed examples of GCM implementation worldwide.

The Committee recognized the **concrete impact** of the DDF and Repository to date. Both components have been instrumental in translating the GCM's commitments into action and are essential to sustaining system-wide support.

Establishing a dedicated **Technical Support Window** under the Fund will:

- Ensure predictable financing for the DDF and Repository once current external funding ends.
- Promote coherence and reduce fragmentation across CBM components.
- Strengthen the Fund's role as the **central financing mechanism for the GCM**, consistent with UN80 priorities on efficiency, coherence, and collective delivery.

The Steering Committee **approved the establishment** of the Technical Support Window and **authorized the FMU** to prepare the required revisions to the Fund's governance documents, with the aim of making the new Window operational in **2026**.

Programme Selections

Selection of Pipeline Concept Notes and Priority Joint Programmes

Concept Notes

Twenty-four new concept notes were received ahead of the meeting, bringing the total of submissions to 220 from over 123 different countries and regions to date. Following the eligibility and quality review, the Steering Committee approved the inclusion of the following seven concept notes in the pipeline of Joint Programmes.

Concept Notes approved for inclusion in the Pipeline of Joint Programmes				
Thematic Area (TA)	Country / Countries	Region / Sub region	Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs)
1	Uganda	Africa / East Africa	Strengthening Data-Driven and Inclusive Migration Governance for Climate-Responsive and Sustainable Mobility	IOM, FAO
2	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Asia-Pacific / East and Southeast Asia	Empowering the Future of Lao PDR: Addressing irregular migration and protecting children affected, including those left behind	IOM, UNICEF

Concept Notes approved for inclusion in the Pipeline of Joint Programmes				
Thematic Area (TA)	Country / Countries	Region / Sub region	Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs)
3	Dominican Republic, Haiti	Americas / Caribbean	Strengthening the capacity of the Governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to promote safe migration and combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SoM) by enhancing prosecution efforts, victim protection mechanisms, and binational cooperation.	IOM, UNODC
3	Indonesia	Asia-Pacific / East and Southeast Asia	Countering Cyber-enabled Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) in Indonesia	UNODC, UN Women, UN Pulse - UNOPS
4	Albania	Europe	MIRA: Migration and Investment for Rural Advancement	IOM, FAO
5	Egypt, Tunisia	MENA	HEARTS – Healthcare Enhancement and Access for Reproductive and Sexual Health of migrant’s women and girls and host community in Egypt and Tunisia	IOM, WHO, UNFPA
5	Jamaica and The Bahamas	Americas / Caribbean	Promoting collaborative approaches for sustainable reintegration of migrant returnees in Jamaica and The Bahamas	IOM, UNDP

Priority Joint Programmes

The Fund prioritized 10 Joint Programmes (2 per each Thematic Area), in line with the Investment Plan 2023-2026. Five priority Joint Programmes previously submitted by (i) Botswana; (ii) Indonesia-the Philippines-Thailand; (iii) Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso; (iv) Peru and (v) Thailand have already been approved.

At this Steering Committee meeting, five Joint Programme documents were submitted for approval (four new submissions and one submission pending from the previous meeting). The following four Joint Programme documents were approved.

Newly approved Priority Joint Programmes				
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region /Sub-Region	Title	PUNOs
2	Namibia	Africa / Southern Africa	Strengthening protection and assistance services to migrants, including children in vulnerable situations in Namibia	IOM, UNICEF, FAO
3	Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama	Americas / South America	Strengthening the capacity of the Governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, and Panama to provide effective and coordinated responses to transnational organized crime, while enhancing access to protection for migrants and community members in vulnerable situations	UNODC, IOM

Newly approved Priority Joint Programmes				
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region / Sub-Region	Title	PUNOs
4	Belgium, Senegal, Morocco	Africa/ West and Central Africa; Europe; MENA	Boosting the contribution of diaspora to climate action in rural areas	FAO, IOM
4	Sri Lanka	Asia-Pacific / South Asia	Promoting decent employment opportunity and gender equality in the care economy for Sri Lanka migration workers	IOM, ILO

The Steering Committee did not approve the **TA2 Bolivia Joint Programme** “Amazon Alive: Sustainable Solutions for Safe Migration and Resilient Communities,” which was assessed as not meeting the requirements outlined in the Operations Manual.

Identification of a New Priority Joint Programme

In line with agreed practice, following the rejection of the Bolivia proposal, a new priority Joint Programme was identified under TA2 to maintain an equal number of priorities under each Thematic Area:

- “Address vulnerabilities and save lives of people on the move through coordinated cross-border efforts along the Guatemala – Mexico border” submitted by IOM, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR in **Guatemala and Mexico** – USD 4,000,000.

Considering the crime-related aspects of some components of the proposal, the Steering Committee recommended to engage UNODC during the joint programme development phase.

Overall, the ten priority Joint Programmes and their respective status in the approval process are summarised below:

Priority Joint Programmes						
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region / Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)	Status of Joint Programme document
1	Botswana	Africa / Southern Africa	Strengthening of Migration Data Collection, Analysis and Management Systems in Botswana	IOM, ILO, UNDP	1,700,000	Approved
1	Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand	Asia / East and Southeast Asia	Safe Labour Migration and Decent Work for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the ASEAN Region	UNDP, ILO	2,700,000	Approved
2	Guatemala, Mexico	Americas/ Central and North America	Address vulnerabilities and save lives of people on the move through coordinated cross-border efforts along	IOM, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR	4,000,000	Requested

Priority Joint Programmes						
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region / Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)	Status of Joint Programme document
			the Guatemala – Mexico border			
2	Namibia	Africa / Southern Africa	Strengthening protection and assistance services to migrants, including children in vulnerable situations in Namibia	IOM, UNICEF, FAO	2,800,000	Approved
3	Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso	Africa / West and Central Africa	Enhance Border Management and Combat Transnational Crime at the Northern Border of Côte d'Ivoire and Cascades region of Burkina Faso	IOM, FAO, UN Women, UNODC	4,000,000	Approved
3	Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama	Americas / South America	Strengthening the capacity of the Governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, and Panama to provide effective and coordinated responses to transnational organized crime, while enhancing access to protection for migrants and community members in vulnerable situations	IOM, UNODC	4,000,000	Approved
4	Belgium-Senegal-Morocco	Africa/ West and Central Africa; Europe; MENA	Boosting the contribution of diaspora to climate action in rural areas	FAO, IOM	3,000,000	Approved
4	Sri Lanka	Asia / South Asia	Promoting decent employment opportunity and gender equality in the care economy for Sri Lanka migration workers	IOM, ILO	1,400,000	Approved
5	Peru	Americas / South America	Strengthening socioeconomic inclusion and access to comprehensive quality healthcare and protection of refugees and migrants and receiving communities in the COVID-19 context in the district of San Juan de Lurigancho-SJL, Lima, Peru	ILO, IOM, UNFPA, WHO	2,053,567	Approved
5	Thailand	Asia-Pacific / East and	Ending Childhood Statelessness in Thailand	IOM, UNHCR,	3,000,000	Approved

Priority Joint Programmes						
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region / Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)	Status of Joint Programme document
		Southeast Asia	through Civil Registration of Vital Life Events	UNICEF, UNESCO		

Revised pipeline

The Steering Committee approved the withdrawal of six concept notes from the pipeline, either due to expiry (three years without selection) or withdrawal by the submitting entities during the yearly relevance check exercise conducted by the FMU.

Joint Programme Revision

The Steering Committee approved the budget revision of the Thematic Area 1 Serbia Joint Programme.

Fund Management Unit Revised Budget 2025 and Budget 2026

The Steering Committee approved the 2025 budget revision and fund allocation of USD 727,600 to the Fund Management Unit for 2026.

Calls for proposals

The Steering Committee endorsed a shift from the current open-ended approach for receiving concept notes to time-bound calls for proposals to be launched when resources allow or strategic gaps are identified. This will help ensure a more focused, balanced, and strategic pipeline.

The Steering Committee delegated authority to the Technical Group to incorporate the necessary revisions in the Operations Manual.

Way Forward

In line with the Terms of Reference and the Operations Manual, one member per constituency rotates out of the Steering Committee each year. By the end of 2026, Denmark, Bangladesh, FAO, and AFFORD are due to complete their terms. However, to better align with the IMRF timeline, the Steering



Committee agreed to extend their membership until June 2026, unless any member prefers to conclude earlier and informs the FMU accordingly.

Beyond its regular responsibilities - including the monitoring of ongoing Joint Programmes, preparation of the Annual Report, and support to teams developing, initiating or concluding Joint Programmes - the Steering Committee requested the FMU to undertake the following additional tasks:

- Coordinate with the Technical Group to establish a fundraising plan ahead of the IMRF.
- Facilitate the implementation of the new co-chairing arrangement; and.
- Prepare the necessary revisions to the Fund's Terms of Reference and Operations Manual, to reflect the creation of the Technical Support Window and the new call for proposals modality.