

## **Statement by like-minded States on GCR and GCM as complementary frameworks**

to the International Migration Review Forum 2026

UNHQ New York, 7-8 May, 2026

### **Statement**

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Mexico is honored to address you on behalf of like-minded States<sup>1</sup> committed to advancing the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, or GCR, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). The GCR provides a whole of society blueprint for strengthened international cooperation to uphold refugee protection under international law, ease pressures on host countries and ensure burden and responsibility sharing.

The international community has long recognized the distinct legal and policy frameworks governing refugees and migrants which gave rise to the two separate Compacts. The GCM itself has clearly reaffirmed that “migrants and refugees are distinct groups governed by separate legal frameworks”.

We reaffirm our respective commitments to the GCM, which asserts the human rights and dignity of migrants, and offers practical tools for safe, regular mobility and rights-based migration management.

While distinct, the GCM and GCR are complementary frameworks. In this regard, progress in the implementation of the GCM can contribute to achieving some of the objectives of the GCR, as well as to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthen efficiencies in line with the UN80 Reform agenda.

Further, in some areas, both Compacts recognize migrants and refugees respectively as active stakeholders, and respond to challenges that affect refugees and migrants alike in the context of mixed movements, where limited legal pathways often force them to use the routes, exposing them to dangers, such as those arising at sea, arbitrary detention practices, and trafficking in persons. Leveraging coordination across relevant initiatives under each Compact can improve effectiveness and efficiency in managing migration, while maintaining the integrity of the international protection regime.

Distinguished delegates,

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<sup>1</sup> Brazil, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Spain and Uruguay.

We therefore call on Member states and partners to:

- Redouble efforts under GRF multistakeholder pledges that reinforce the complementarity between both Compacts;
- Support and advance a route-based approach in context of mixed movements of refugees and migrants, by strengthening coordination and operational complementarity between the GCM and the GCR, as well as inclusive coordination between IOM, UNHCR and other actors in support of States, refugees and migrants;
- And ensure that the distinctive status of refugees and their need for international protection remains upheld.

Thank you, Chair.