

It is also important to note that it is at regional and in many cases subregional level that the most advanced forms of cooperation with regards to ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration are already taking place. Informal regional dialogues such as the Colombo Process in Asia or the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration build confidence, networks and shared understandings on migration, facilitating practical cooperation. More formal processes such as the Mercosur Agreement on Free Movement and Residence and the Treaty on Eurasian Economic Union establish forms of free movement of migrants between the member States of their memberships, giving greater options for legal and safe migration as well as serving to bring member States of these organizations closer together. Ongoing efforts by regional organizations such as ASEAN and CARICOM to open up greater freedom of movement for specific classes of skilled migrants could also be mentioned in this regard.

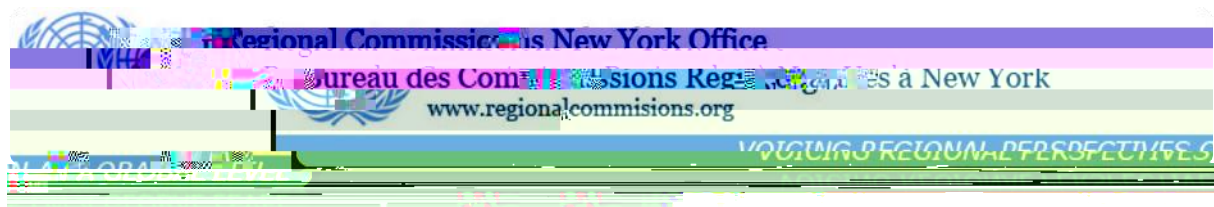
Going forward therefore, it is essential that the Global Compact take into account these regional dimensions to ensure that it addresses the wide range of migration trends across the regions of the world; provides appropriate guidance to countries often facing very different situations; and gives impetus to ongoing forms of cooperation on migration which have the greatest chances of success.

II. Initial plans for regional consultations in the context of preparing the global compact

The regional commissions will be responding to the call of member states to organize these regional discussions in the timeline provided for them by the General Assembly resolution and within their respective mandates.

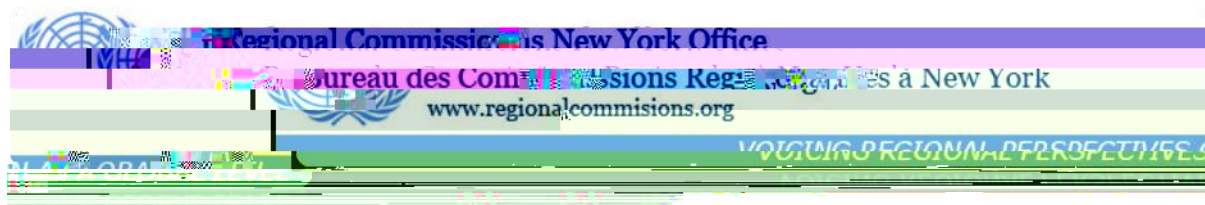
A. Support structures

In implementing these activities, the regional commissions will pay close attention to the call for cooperation within the United Nations system, organizing their activities through existing structures



B. Focus of the knowledge products

A number of knowledge products spearheaded by the regional commissions will feed into the regional consultations.



ECA will initially present its report at an expert retreat with the African Union in Johannesburg in June/July 2017. Then, it will organize a **two-day** regional conference (with Ministers, regional migration experts and civil society) in **Addis Ababa in September 2017** to validate the regional report and help develop a draft common African position on migration. A special meeting of the AU expert committee dealing with migration will be convened in Addis Ababa in October/November 2017 with a view to adopt the common African position, which will then be presented at the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government in January 2018.

ESCAP will organize a **three-day** regional consultation in **August 2017 in Bangkok** to adopt an outcome document and final report to be transmitted as the Asia-Pacific input into the inter-governmental negotiations of the global compact.

In collaboration with the League of Arab States, ESCWA will organize a **two-day** regional consultation in **October or November 2017 in Cairo**.

In coordination with its partners in the region, ECLAC will organize a **two-day** regional consultation in **October 2017 in Santiago** to which experts from each sub-region will be invited.

The outcome documents and/or summary reports of all the regional consultations will be transmitted as inputs to the inter-governmental negotiations of the global compact. Regional analysis and perspectives will also be made available and feed into the global preparatory meetings as they evolve.

Let me also add that UNECE will also be supporting the process through ongoing planned activities within its 2017 programme and is exploring options to that end.

III. Concluding remarks

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that the regional commissions are committed to providing the regional and subregional perspectives to ensure that the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration is truly global in its scope and supportive of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Going beyond 2018, the regional commissions will strengthen their work with all partners to support the implementation of the global compact, as part of their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its unique commitment to migration.

Thank you for your attention.

New York, 16
February 2017

