



Migration Capacity Partnerships for Resilience: Dialogue and Cooperation in Times of Regional Instability

Side event on the margins of the eighty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly
Co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Malta, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Denmark to
the United Nations, together with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development
(ICMPD)

**Wednesday, 23 September 2026 | 13:15–14:45 | Conference Room 6, United Nations
Headquarters**

Background

Migration governance across the Mediterranean and the wider region is operating under compounding pressure. Protracted displacement, shifting routes, and a sharp contraction in international funding are testing the institutions responsible for managing migration at precisely the moment when the demands placed on them are greatest. The International Migration Review Forum held in May 2026 underlined the scale of that strain, and in particular the risk that reduced resources erode the data systems, professional networks and institutional memory on which effective migration governance depends.

Against this backdrop, strengthening the resilience of migration governance requires more than individual capacity development efforts. It requires sustained cooperation between institutions and countries, built around shared priorities, complementary capacities and continued exchange. Approaches that are demand-driven, grounded in national institutional realities, and designed to endure beyond the lifetime of any single project offer a more durable response than externally designed interventions.

This side event examines how migration capacity partnerships can serve that purpose, drawing on two concrete experiences: the Migration Capacity Partnerships for the Mediterranean and the BRIDGE programme in the Jordan–Syria context. It takes place as States take forward implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and consider how the commitments in the Pact for the Future translate into practical cooperation on human mobility.

Migration Capacity Partnerships for the Mediterranean (MCP Med)

The MCP Med approach provides a framework for cooperation that brings partners together to build on existing capacities, share expertise and develop responses grounded in their respective institutional and contextual realities. Rather than transferring models from one setting to another, it starts from what national institutions already do and identifies where exchange between them adds value.

At its centre, the Training Institute on Migration Capacity Partnership for the Mediterranean (MCP Med) provides a practical platform for professionalisation, peer learning and institutional exchange, while helping to build the relationships and professional networks that underpin longer-term regional

cooperation. Established in 2021 and officially launched in Malta, a founding member, the Institute is jointly governed by Southern Partner Countries, donors, and ICMPD, and is currently co-chaired by Denmark and Jordan. To date, it has designed over 90 courses, including more than 40 accredited programmes, and reached more than 2,400 participants across nine countries; its training covers border management and security, migration governance and policy, trafficking in human beings, legal migration and professional development.

The BRIDGE Programme: Cooperation in the Jordan–Syria Context

The same approach is reflected in the BRIDGE programme, implemented by ICMPD, which provides a flexible framework for cooperation in the Jordan–Syria context. Building on Jordan’s experience and its engagement with Syrian counterparts, BRIDGE creates space for dialogue and exchange between relevant institutions and supports the gradual development of cooperation in response to priorities identified in Syria’s statement of Recovery Priorities for International Cooperation.

The emphasis is on a progressive, demand-driven process that allows engagement to evolve with institutional priorities and readiness while strengthening dialogue and trust between partners.

Initiated in 2025 in response to the Amman call, through which Jordan invited partners to support post-conflict capacity development for Syria, BRIDGE brings relevant institutions into a structured capacity-development process focused on institutional development, enhanced border management, and the capacities required for Syria’s recovery and reconstruction. Implemented by ICMPD, the programme has received support from the Netherlands, Austria, and Denmark.

Objectives of the Side Event

- To examine how migration capacity partnerships can sustain and strengthen migration governance during periods of regional instability and constrained resources.
- To share the practical experience of the MCP Med Training Institute and the BRIDGE programme with a wider United Nations audience.
- To consider how demand-driven, institution-to-institution cooperation contributes to implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.
- To identify where further partnership and support are required, and how existing arrangements can be sustained and extended.

Format

The event will be a 75-minute moderated panel discussion. Following an introduction by the moderator, each participating delegation and ICMPD will be invited to deliver remarks, after which the floor will be opened for interventions and questions. The session will conclude with closing remarks.

Speakers are invited to keep to the indicated time to preserve a substantive exchange with the floor. Guiding questions for each intervention are set out below; they are indicative and intended to assist preparation rather than to constrain speakers.

Programme

13:15–13:20	Welcome and framing • Moderator: Neville Aquilina, Director General for Global Issues, International Development and Economic Affairs, Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Malta
13:20–13:25	Opening remarks • H.E. Mr Christopher Fearne, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Malta
13:25–13:33	Malta • Mr Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Malta
13:33–13:41	Jordan • PLACEHOLDER
13:41–13:49	Syrian Arab Republic • Dr Hamza Al-Mustafa, Counsellor for European Affairs to the Minister for Foreign Affairs
13:49–13:57	Denmark • Karen Grønlund Rogne, Director for Multilateral Cooperation and Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
13:57–14:05	International Centre for Migration Policy Development • Ms Sedef Dearing, Deputy Director General
14:05–14:22	Interactive discussion • Interventions and questions from the floor
14:22–14:30	Closing remarks • Ms Sedef Dearing, Deputy Director General, ICMPD

Practical Information

The event is open to Member States, United Nations entities, international organisations and civil society. Access to United Nations Headquarters requires a valid grounds pass.

Registration: [here](#)

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