



5 REGULAR PATHWAYS

## ENHANCE AVAILABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY OF PATHWAYS FOR REGULAR MIGRATION



### Associated actions

- a. **Develop human rights-based and gender-responsive bilateral, regional and multilateral labour mobility agreements** with sector-specific standard terms of employment in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, drawing on relevant ILO standards, guidelines and principles, in compliance with international human rights and labour law
- b. **Facilitate regional and cross-regional labour mobility through international and bilateral cooperation arrangements**, such as free movement regimes, visa liberalization or multiple country visas, and labour mobility cooperation frameworks, in accordance with national priorities, local market needs and skills supply
- c. **Review and revise existing options and pathways for regular migration**, with a view to optimize skills matching in labour markets, address demographic realities and development challenges and opportunities, in accordance with local and national labour market demands and skills supply, in consultation with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders

*Regular pathways*

Extract from [Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Guidance for governments and all relevant stakeholders](#)

- d. **Develop flexible, rights-based and gender-responsive labour mobility schemes for migrants**, in accordance with local and national labour market needs and skills supply at all skills levels, including temporary, seasonal, circular, and fast-track programmes in areas of labour shortages, by providing flexible, convertible and non-discriminatory visa and permit options, such as for permanent and temporary work, multiple-entry study, business, visit, investment and entrepreneurship
- e. **Promote effective skills matching in the national economy by involving local authorities and other relevant stakeholders**, particularly the private sector and trade unions, in the analysis of the local labour market, identification of skills gaps, definition of required skills profiles, and evaluation of the efficacy of labour migration policies, in order to ensure market-responsive contractual labour mobility through regular pathways
- f. **Foster efficient and effective skills-matching programmes** by reducing visa and permit processing timeframes for standard employment authorizations, and by offering accelerated and facilitated visa and permit processing for employers with a track record of compliance
- g. **Develop or build on existing national and regional practices for admission and stay of appropriate duration** based on compassionate, humanitarian or other considerations for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin, due to sudden-onset natural disasters and other precarious situations, such as by providing humanitarian visas, private sponsorships, access to education for children, and temporary work permits, while adaptation in or return to their country of origin is not possible

**h. Cooperate to identify, develop and strengthen solutions for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin**

due to slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, such as desertification, land degradation, drought and sea level rise, including by devising planned relocation and visa options, in cases where adaptation in or return to their country of origin is not possible

**i. Facilitate access to procedures for family reunification for migrants**

at all skills levels through appropriate measures that promote the realization of the right to family life and the best interests of the child, including by reviewing and revising applicable requirements, such as on income, language proficiency, length of stay, work authorization, and access to social security and services

**j. Expand available options for academic mobility,**

including through bilateral and multilateral agreements that facilitate academic exchanges, such as scholarships for students and academic professionals, visiting professorships, joint training programmes, and international research opportunities, in cooperation with academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders



**Example practices**

For more practices, visit the Migration Network Hub's **Repository of Practices**

**Global Skill Partnerships (GSPs)**

A bilateral Global Skill Partnership (GSP) is an instrument “designed to channel migration pressures into tangible, mutual benefits for both a country of migrant origin and

a country of destination.... maximis[ing] the benefits of migration and shar[ing] them fairly.” GSPs are meant to be exchanges between equal partners, whereby the country of destination commits to providing finance and technology to train potential migrants with specific skills in the country of origin, prior to the migration journey. Under the GSP model, countries of origin commit to carrying out training for potential departing migrants, but also receive support from countries of destination for training non-migrants as well (Clemens and Gough, 2018).

### **Bilateral labour agreements**

Some countries have signed bilateral labour agreements that are based on international human rights norms and foundations. For example, the *Colombia-Peru Framework Agreement* of 2012 refers to the rights embedded in the international instruments ratified by both countries, which includes the *International Convention on the Rights of Migrants Workers and the Members of their Families* (ICRMW).

### **Colombia’s Special Stay Permit**

In 2017, Colombia created a Special Stay Permit enabling 180,000 Venezuelan migrants who had entered through formal border points to remain in the country. The national authorities also registered more than 442,000 irregular migrants. Venezuelans who have registered or acquired the Special Stay Permit are entitled to remain in Colombia for up to two years with access to basic rights, including employment, health and education (UNHCR, 2018).

### **COVID-19 residence status extension**

In reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2020 Portugal announced plans to grant residence status to everyone with

pending residence applications on any ground, including but not limited to asylum, until 1 July 2020. Individuals granted permits on this basis were able to access health care and all other public services on equal terms as any other permanent resident in Portugal. Similarly, other countries, including Italy, France and Poland have automatically extended the validity of all residence permits expiring during the lock-down.



## Relevant sustainable development goals



### SDG 3: Good health and well-being

▪**3.c:** Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States



### SDG 4: Quality education

▪**4.b:** By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries



▪**4.c:** By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

### SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

▪**8.3:** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

▪**8.7:** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

▪**8.8:** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

▪**8.b:** By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization



## SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

- 10.2:** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.7:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies