Regional United Nations Migration Network for East and Southern Africa

<u>Draft Terms of Reference</u>

Mission Statement

The R-UNSDG for East and Southern Africa establishes a Regional United Nations Network on Migration for East and Southern Africa (The Regional Network) to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States on migration policy, including on the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) where a common UN system approach would add value. The Regional Network endeavours to promote migration policy that supports the well-being of migrants and societies in a coherent, holistic and balanced manner, including policies and their implementation that are aligned with the SDGs, the African Union Migration Policy Framework, the 2063 Agenda and other sub-regional initiatives while progressing the GCM 23 objectives.

In all its actions, the Regional Network will be guided, inter alia, by the United Nations Charter, international law, the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, and the GCM. It will align itself, in its working methods, with the terms of reference of the global UN Network on Migration. The regional context in East and southern Africa will inform the development of working documents, including a multi-year action plan[1].

In line with global efforts, the Regional Network aims to foster a better understanding of current and emerging issues on migration, and to enhance coordination and collaboration within the UN system and with other stakeholders at regional and national levels.

As such, it is intended to pursue the following goals:
1. *Sharing information on regional migration dynamics;*
2. *Searching for synergies among existing regional initiatives and identifying common objectives on the way forward;*
3. *Supporting the UN Network on Migration and other global initiatives such as the Knowledge Platform at the regional level;*
4. *Provide information and guidance to RCs/UNCTs for the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration at the national level*

I.   Objectives of the Network

In order to implement its mission, the Regional Network commits to taking concrete actions, as follows:

1. <u>Sharing information on migration topics</u>
   - o   Provide regular updates on relevant migration issues;
   - o   Share relevant data, documents, studies and lessons learnt in order to foster a holistic understanding of the East and Southern African context;
   - o   Contribute to context analysis and discuss emerging issues and challenges;

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[1] Working groups and various workstreams will be determined in the action plan of the Regional Network for East and Southern Africa.

o Inform on a regular basis the UN Network on Migration on regional initiatives and progress made in supporting GCM implementation by UN agencies, local actors, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

2. <u>Searching for synergies among existing initiatives and Identifying common objectives on the way forward</u>
   o Identify and enhance synergies between interventions and reduce duplications;
   o Identify common priority areas and support future common regional action on migration issues by the R-UNSDG system, where such action would add value;
   o The Regional Network will share updates on emerging issues with the Opportunities and Issue-based coalition (O/IBC 7 on Migration and forced displacement) and inform the latter on progress made on GCM implementation in East and Southern Africa .
   o Facilitate policy dialogues between donors, governments in the region and donor capitals;
   o Joint advocacy efforts on priority issues related to migration in East and Southern Africa.

3. <u>Supporting the UN Network on Migration and other global initiatives for the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration at the regional level</u>
   o Support coordinated action on the objectives of the GCM by the R-UNSDG system, notably in terms of advocacy and communication, both through consistent policy inputs to sub-regional institutions and external messaging to a wider audience;
   o Ensure collaboration with other existing UN coordination mechanisms on the GCM in coordination with key actors such as the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission;
   o Focus on strengthening links with other regional grouping such as Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), East African Community (EAC), Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) among others and Regional Consultative Processes when relevant for the implementation of the GCM;
   o Engage with external partners working at the regional level, including regional civil society partners, regional networks of trade unions, regional academic networks on migration, and other relevant stakeholders. The work of the UNMN ESA will ensure a whole-of-society approach and capitalize on the comparative advantage of civil society to support GCM implementation.
   o Contribute to the review process of the GCM at the regional and international levels as needed. Nurture multi-stakeholders' partnerships and organize joint events on migration as needed;

4. <u>Provide information and guidance to RCs and UNCTs for the establishment of country-level UN Migration Networks in support of the GCM</u>

II.   Membership and Composition

The Regional Network will be comprised of **all** UN agencies that are part of the R-UNSDG East and Southern Africa, as well as UNECA and IOM SLO Addis Ababa, considering the work of these offices in collaboration with the African Union Commission.

III.   Organizational arrangements

- The Regional Network meetings will be hosted either virtually or physically in Nairobi or Pretoria as may be the case.

- The Regional Network will meet at least once every quarter; the frequency of meetings can be increased as needed based on expected deliverables that may require regular interactions;

- The Regional Network will be co-chaired by the R-UNSDG ESA chair (a.i) and IOM Regional Director (IOM having been appointed by the UN Secretary General as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration);

The co-chairs of the Regional Network will:

- Convene and chair meetings to ensure the smooth functioning of the Network;
- Facilitate regular interaction between the members of the Network;
- Coordinate the development of the Network multi-year workplan;
- Engage relevant stakeholders as the need arises (with representatives from INGOS, the private sector, academia, etc.)

The co-chairs will keep the member list updated and share it regularly with its members.

IV.   Reporting

The Regional Network will report back to the UN Migration Network Secretariat and update RCs/Chairs of National Networks at UNCT level on its activities and on progress made at regional level in the implementation of the GCM.