

OVERVIEW

of the National Progress of Implementation of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

1. Voluntary Review Drafting Methodology

The Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in cooperation with the Subregional Coordination Office of the International Organization for Migration for Central Asia in the Republic of Kazakhstan (*hereinafter-IOM*) have put efforts to notify and engage all stakeholders in the national review of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular migration (*hereinafter - GCM*) implementation.

The Review, at first, focused on clarification of the methodology and the analysis structure with all government agencies and members of the established working group.

Afterwards the data and information from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, independent experts, scientists and other interested parties were being collected.

The analysis required the documents, statistical data from state bodies, reports¹, analysis and other information and analytical data materials from official sources and NGOs studies.

Information was provided by the ministries of internal affairs, labor and social protection of the population, health care, information and social development, education and science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Review provides statistical data for the period beginning from GCM's signature by Kazakhstan (*2019 - 9 months 2020.*).

Whilst review was being prepared, some data was found to be missing in the implementation of certain indicators such as GCM's objectives. In other cases, some data was available but was not properly disaggregated.

2. Policy and Enabling Environment

In 2015, Kazakhstan joined the UN Sustainable Development Goals "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (SDGs), which are now for 79.9% integrated into strategic program documents.²

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan has established a Coordination Council for Sustainable Development that coordinates measures to nationalize SDG targets and indicators in five key areas: People (*SDG 1-5*), Planet (*SDG 6.12-15*), Prosperity (*SDG 7-11*), Peace (*SDG 16*) and Partnerships (*SDG 17*).

¹Voluntary National Report "On the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2019; Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Approval of the Second Periodic Report on the Implementation by the Republic of Kazakhstan of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" dated 20.07.2017 No. 435; Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Approval of the Third Periodic Report on the Implementation by the Republic of Kazakhstan of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" dated June 30, 2020 No. 416; Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Approval of the Third Periodic National Report of the Republic of Kazakhstan within the Framework of the Universal Periodic Review on Human Rights" dated 06.11.2019 No. 831; Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Approval of the Fourth Periodic Report on Measures Adopted by the Republic of Kazakhstan to Implement the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment" dated November 27, 2018 No. 789; Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Approval of the Eighth to Tenth Consolidated Periodic Report on the Implementation by the Republic of Kazakhstan of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" dated August 27, 2019 No. 630.

²Voluntary National Review, 2019 "On the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda", page 4.

Migration policy issues fit within People and Prosperity program areas.

The state takes certain measures towards establishing the enabling conditions for migrants to exercise their human, economic and social capacity, thereby **contributing to sustainable development at the national level (GCM's Objective 19: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries)**.

The GCM concept and guiding principles coincide extensively with the priorities outlined in Kazakhstan-2050 Development Strategy³, the 2025 Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan⁴, and the Plan of the Nation: 100 Concrete Steps on Implementation of Five Institutional Reforms.⁵ These state programs are aimed at strengthening human capital and improving the living conditions of the nationals, including contributors to migration.

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan is vested with drafting of the main areas of the state population migration policy and its implementation (*Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On population Migration" dated 22.07.2011.*).

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter referred to as the MLSP) is an authorized state body that exercises leadership in the field of population migration within its competence.⁶

The state policy on nationality, migration and refugees, interagency coordination, monitoring, analysis and migration monitoring is implemented by the Committee of the Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter - the CMS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs).⁷

The Migration Policy Concept for 2017-2021 (*hereinafter - Migration Policy Concept*) and **its Implementation Action Plan** are being exercised in Kazakhstan.⁸

The Concept defines migration policy's strategic goals, objectives and directions, envisages a **hybrid migration management system** for a systematic approach to all flows of external and internal migration in the interests of the country's socio-economic development; planning for and inviting foreign labor for demanding specific economic sectors under liberalized migration policy; a decreased level of irregular employment of foreign labor immigrants, including household workers, and an established modern system for migration flows registration for the prediction of migration processes and their effective control measures etc.

Specific target indicators were set up for such criteria as the share of foreign workers at enterprises, foreign labor quota, preserved share of qualified specialists among attracted foreign labor, share of employed oralmans, and fully covered state support measures for internal migrants arriving to the regions specified by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is a country of origin, transit and destination in the migration cycle.

³Address of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Leader of the Nation, N.A. Nazarbayev to the People of Kazakhstan "Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy: a New Political Course of the Established State", Astana, 14.12.2012.

⁴Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated February 15, 2018 No. 636.

⁵Source: https://online.zakon.kz/document/?doc_id=31977084#pos=4;-106.

⁶Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Population Migration", Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On some Issues of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan" dated 18.02.2017 No. 81.

⁷Regulations on the Committee of the Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, approved by order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 01.10.2014 No. 662.

⁸Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 09.29.2017 No.602.

"The countries of Central Asia have been major labour suppliers for the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan for nearly twenty years. The Eurasian migration corridor is set up between the countries of the region, on the one hand, and the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, on the other hand, currently being the world's largest. The migration corridor serves for labor migration that engages from 2.7 to 4.2 million migrant workers or from 10% to 16% of the economically active population of Central Asia."⁹

Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Population Migration" reads out that the state population migration policy should rest upon the principles of recognition and guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of migrants under the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, laws and international treaties.

The entry, exist and stay of immigrants on the territory of the country is set out in the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Population Migration" of 22.07.2011, "On Legal Status of Foreigners" of 19.06.1995, "On Informatization" of 24.11.2015 and other regulatory legal acts.

In 2019, over 6 million foreigners **arrived** in the country, including 5.7 million or 90% from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (*Uzbekistan - 2.4 million, Russia - 1.6 million, Kyrgyzstan - 699 thousand, etc.*) and 642 000 from foreign countries (*China – 98 thousand, Germany – 89.8 thousand, Turkey - 59 thousand, India – 38.8 thousand, etc.*).

Out of the registered 1.6 million foreigners 925 000 came for private business, 481 400 came to work, 44 900 – for tourism, 30 700 – on business, and 32 500 for study.

For nine months of 2020, about 3 million foreigners arrived, including 2.8 mln. from the CIS countries (Uzbekistan - 1.3 million, Russia - 688 thousand, Kyrgyzstan - 567 thousand, Tajikistan - 191 thousand, others) and 149 thousand from far away countries (Turkey – 39.2 thousand, China - 21.0 thousand, India - 14.2 thousand, Mongolia - 4.4 thousand, etc.).

The temporary residence permits were received by 262.1 thousand foreigners, including 143.8 thousand who came for work, 10.2 thousand - for study, 4.6 thousand – for tourism, 3.5 thousand – for official affairs, and 99.9 thousand people for other purposes.

The Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025 provides for "the simplification of migration control and visa processing procedures" (*initiative 3.35*).

After the GCM signature, the work continued to improve migration legislation, simplify the visa regime, invitation issuance procedure, entry and registration of arriving foreigners, and modernize visa and migration portal (VMP).

As part of the instruction of the Head of State, the temporary registration was regulatorily abolished for every category of foreigners in the country for under 30 days. Now the host, within three working days from the date of foreigners' arrival, is obliged to inform the internal affairs bodies about the immigrants staying with them. At the same time, a foreigner himself does not apply to the internal affairs bodies for registration.

Foreigners staying over 30 days will have to get a temporary residence permit without visa prerequisites. The notification mechanism is fully automated via the VMP online.

Citizens of 73 countries can enter the country without visas for under 30 days (*54 unilaterally, 19 bilaterally*).

⁹Report "Impact of the COVID - 19 pandemic on migrants and remittances in Central Asia", p. 8. IOM project "Asian Regional Migration Program", andSource: <https://kazakhstan.iom.int/publications>.

To improve the quality of public services across the regions of the country, Migration Service Centers have been established. This has made it possible to shorten the time required for permit issuance from 5-7 days to several hours. Also, direct communication with permit issuing police officers was eliminated, thus reducing corruption risks in this area.

Visas are issued upon an invitation in the territory of the country by the migration service or foreign institutions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan have set up a unified registration database for the issuance of entry visas to foreigners and stateless persons, they issue, cancel, restore visas of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and fulfill other functions¹⁰ (**GCM's Objective 14:** Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle).

By acceding to GCM, Kazakhstan, from January 1, 2019, has been implementing the e-Visa project that enables foreign persons receive electronic "business", "tourist" and "treatment" visas without Embassy's communications. Tourist electronic visas are issued to the nationals of 117 countries, including 23 countries that enjoy business and medical treatment visas.

In 2019, more than 26 thousand electronic visas were issued, compared to 3412 in 2020.

Investing foreigners are exempted from registration, their visa validity period has increased from 3 to 5 years. Former compatriots are entitled to get multiple-entry visas for private travel (up to 3 years). This year migration cards and border entry passes were abolished for all foreigners. A 72-hour visa-free transit was launched for the nationals of China and India.¹¹

Some work was in progress, using one-stop window model,¹² to get labor visas for the officers of the Astana International Financial Center (AIFC) and their family members who get a 5-year entry visa.

To ensure comfort and safety of foreigners during their stay in the country, tourist police was set up (*in the cities of Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent, Akmola, Almaty, East Kazakhstan, Karaganda, Pavlodar, Mangistau, Turkestan regions*).

Article 24 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the Legal Status of Foreigners" states that foreigners in transit through the territory of the Republic should follow the rules of transit passage to the border point of departure from the Republic alongside the established route and can have stops on the territory of the Republic only at points specified in Kazakhstan's transit visas, subject to availability of a permit issued by Kazakhstan's authorized state bodies.

In 2019, to ensure migration control, 94.1 thousand of migration law violators were held administratively responsible (20.7 thousand over 9 months of 2020), including 11.1 thousand expelled from the country (1.7 thousand over 9 months of 2020).

Under the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Population Migration", the internal affairs bodies issue **exit** document for the nationals of the Republic of Kazakhstan who leave

¹⁰Article 10 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Population Migration", Regulation on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 28, 2004 No. 1118.

¹¹ This regime is suspended until November 1, 2020.

¹²The regulation of interaction between JSC Astana International Financial Center and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Activities of the AIFC Expat Center approved by the joint order of the AIFC dated 03.11.2017. No. 27 and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 07.11.2017. No. 736.

the country for a permanent place of residence, without specifying the reasons, purposes of departure, gender, age and nationality.

In 2019, 52.5 thousand travel documents were issued (*46.3 thousand to Russia, 3.1 thousand in Germany, as well as to Poland, Uzbekistan, USA, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus*), 21.5 thousand documents for 9 months of 2020 (*19.1 thousand to Russia, 1.4 thousand to Germany, as well as to Belarus, USA, Poland*).

The main factor influencing the decision to migrate is merely economic. People migrate to find better salaries, better living conditions and others.

The Concept of the Migration Policy outlines emigration challenges: “There is an outflow of qualified workers from various fields and there is no mechanism for retaining so-called “talents” within the country. Over the past three years, 93.9 thousand people have left Kazakhstan for permanent residence, including 41.6% of young people aged 15 to 34”.¹³ The observed outflow of qualified personnel and talented youth is associated with external challenges.

A sociological study (*over 2 thousand respondents*) launched by the Ministry of Information and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan indicates youth mobility manifested in the migration capacity and a trend of the Kazakh youth to move around for higher education. The smallest flow is taken by migration for professional growth.¹⁴

“Russia is the main host country for Kazakhstan’s workers which is eased by the geographical proximity, the absence of a language barrier, visa-free regime as well as a relatively free labor market within the EAEU. Also, many Kazakhstanis work in the USA, Canada, Great Britain, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Montenegro. A lot of students study at universities in China, some of them have been living and working there for a very long time and are potential emigrants.”¹⁵

Within the framework of the Action Plan for Implementation of the Concept and the aforementioned program documents, a set of systemic measures is taken to minimize the contributing factors of emigration (**GCM’s Objective 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin**).

In-country migration mobility is observed.

Millions of people annually contribute to internal migration, with 88% being the intraregional and 12% the interregional migration.

The Migration Policy Concept points out at the shortcomings of the internal migration management system:

“1) internal migration flows are diverted to regional economic growth spots disregarding the possibilities for the receiving regions to provide internal migrants with work, housing, etc .;

2) there is no perfect system for internal migrant registration”.

The increased internal migration flows are noted to have been associated with the desolation of villages, dropped population numbers and aggravated problems of productive employment in one-factor towns and small towns.”

The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan K. Tokayev in his Address to the People of Kazakhstan entitled "Kazakhstan in New Reality: Time for Action" dated 01.09.2020,

¹³Source: <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1700000602>.

¹⁴ Analytical report of the Youth Research Center.

¹⁵“Trends are changing: more and more Kazakhstanis become guest workers from 06.12.2019. Forbes. Source: https://forbes.kz/process/resources/pochemu_vse_bolshe_kazahstantsev_pyitaetsya_uehat_na_rabotu_zagranitsu/

mentioned that the task of balanced territorial development was set: "A new approach to the regional development will enable the control over urbanization process, ensure the phasing-out of "migration waves", and prevent overpopulation and social tension in large cities".

The Migration Policy Concept, the State Program for the Development of Productive Employment and Mass Entrepreneurship¹⁶ and other policy documents implement measures to support internal migration. To incentivize resettlement, a social package is available that includes funds for initial adaptation and reimbursement of region-to-region resettlement costs.

Kazakhstan adheres to a strategy of long-term permanent migration of **ethnic repatriates** arriving into the country. An active policy is being pursued to make ethnic Kazakhs return to their historical homeland, and enabling conditions were established for their social adaptation. There are special programs, which "have clear goals and objectives, as well as stage budget funds "¹⁷ implemented to attract and accommodate returning migrants.

In 2019, 17.7 thousand oralmans arrived, and this year (*as of September 1*) this number reached 9.9 thousand. In total, 30.2 thousand oralmans live in the country.

Pursuant to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Conferment of Nationality of the Republic of Kazakhstan", 618 people were conferred the nationality of Kazakhstan this year, including 12,766 people in a fast-track procedure.

This year, 1051 people were identified as having no identification documents (**GCM's Objective 4:** Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation). Of these, 759 people were granted documents of a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan were issued upon the documents available to them (*birth certificate, military ID, passport of a citizen of the USSR*¹⁸), and 127 persons obtained a certificate of a stateless person.

Kazakhstan, among 103 states, signed a **Joint Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants** on June 12, 2020.¹⁹

The state is taking **anti-crisis** stabilization measures in the face of a pandemic, also to protect the rights of migrants.

Over the period of emergency (*from 16.03.2020*)²⁰ and within 60 days from the date of its termination, documents that have expired or expired within a specified period are recognized as valid (*entry and exit permits (visas), temporary and permanent residence in the country, attraction of foreign labor and asylum seeker certificates*).²¹

The period of the authorized stay in the Republic for foreigners arriving upon a procedure that does not require any visa or those who were ruled out as subject to expelling has been extended.

¹⁶ Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Approval of the State Program for the Development of Productive Employment and Mass Entrepreneurship for 2017-2021" "Enbek" dated 13.11.2018, No. 746.

¹⁷ Report "Return migration: international approaches and regional features of Central Asia", developed within the framework of the IOM project "Asian Regional Migration Program".

¹⁸ Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

¹⁹ Joint Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants.

²⁰ Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the Introduction of a State of Emergency in the Republic of Kazakhstan" dated 15.03.2020;

Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the Extension of the State of Emergency in the Republic of Kazakhstan" dated 04.14.2020.

²¹ Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Recognizing as Valid Some Documents of the Nationals of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Other Persons Staying in the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan" dated 05.11.2020. No. 283.

Following the measures taken and widely publicized in the media, the legal status of 146 970 foreigners has been regulated, and 149 217 foreigners have freely left Kazakhstan since the end of the state of emergency (*from May 11 of this year*).

Due to the pandemic, the borders of recipient and donor countries of labor migrants, including the Central Asian region, are still closed. For the same reason, many foreigners cannot return to their homeland.

“Amid economic downturn in the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, labor migrants from Central Asian countries have become isolated and remain at risk of stigmatization. The situation is aggravated by the fact that their employment was often the only livelihoods for their families who remained in their homeland.”²²

To settle the situation the Government extended a period of an authorized stay for foreigners and those who had previously arrived without a visa, until November 1, 2020. Employers who have been granted a permit to engage foreign labor force can, before the specified period, apply to the migration service for a work visa to be issued regardless of the category of a previously issued visa. Persons who have violated the terms of stay in the country shall be exempted from administrative responsibility (*until November 1 of this year*).

Given potential re-occurring growth of the pandemic, the migration service has predicted an increase in the number of migrants and the duration of their stay in the border zone. The opening of the Republic’s borders in such a context may cause crisis epidemiological situation in the border zone, an increased transit flow of citizens, including those infected, an increased in-country crime rate due to unstable earnings of arriving immigrants, and other risks.

The Migration Policy Concept outlines the existing and anticipated **domestic and external challenges** that call for expansion of the conceptual basis of the migration policy.

“Domestic challenges include:

- excessive low-skilled labor and lack of qualified personnel in specific economic sectors due to a low level of education;
- overpopulation of the largest cities and separate territories, resettlement of ethnic migrants in densely populated regions;
- depopulation of border areas and a drop in population numbers, especially those of the working age, in the northern regions, will in the future challenge their economic growth and, in general, affect country’s national security.

External challenges include:

- the risk of growing low-qualified labor force on the account of the anticipated inflow, primarily those of labor migrants from Central Asian countries;
- the risk of growing outflow of qualified personnel and talented youth;
- penetration of destructive elements into the country with the migration flows”²³

The cooperation within the framework of the **Almaty Process** launched by Kazakhstan in 2011 in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (*UNHCR*) and IOM is a promising practice of migration dispute settlement. This is a regional consultative process for the protection of refugees and international migration

²² Report “Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Migrants and Remittances in Central Asia”, p. 44. IOM project "Asian Regional Migration Program", Source: <https://kazakhstan.iom.int/publications>.

²³ <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1700000602...>

to, from and within the Central Asian region, it includes 7 participating states: Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey. Iran and Pakistan have an observer status.

The Almaty Process is an international migration and refugee protection dialogue and cooperation platform, it promotes the exchange of best practices and harmonization of migration and refugee protection policies in Central Asia and strengthening of regional cooperation.

Under Kazakhstan's chairmanship between 2013 and 2016, eleven major regional events were held, and over 600 participants (*governmental and non-governmental*) were trained.

In September 2016, the 3rd Senior Officials Meeting was held in Nur-Sultan on Resolving Mixed Migration Flows in Central Asia: Movement of People, Rights of Vulnerable Migrants and Refugees and the Regional Cooperation.

Since 2019, the Republic of Tajikistan has been chairing the Almaty Process.

3. Progress towards GCM objectives

The Republic takes actions to consistently improve the migration regulation and integrate **23 GCM objectives**.

The CMS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan collects, monitors, analyzes and predicts migration processes (**GCM's Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies and GCM's Objective 12: Strengthen certainty and predictability of migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral**). Statistical data are published in the official resources of state bodies (*CMS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy, the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan*).

The internal affairs bodies provide 36 public services, of which 30 or 83.3% are automated. The Electronic Government portal (*www.egov.kz*) and the website of the MSC of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan publishes necessary migration-related information²⁴ (**GCM's Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration**).

"Over recent years, Kazakhstan has moved from being a country of origin for labor migration to a country with an active influx of foreign labor."²⁵

The rights of migrant workers are regulated by the Labor Code, the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Legal Status of Foreigners", "On Employment", "On Population Migration", other regulatory legal acts and international treaties (**GCM's Objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work**).

Kazakhstan has ratified a number of international human rights conventions that are crucial for protection of the rights of migrant workers. These include, in particular, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²⁶, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²⁷, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

²⁴ <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/qriim/activities/53?lang=ru>.

²⁵ The Rights of Migrant Workers in Kazakhstan: An Analysis of National Legislation, International Standards and Law Enforcement Practices, Almaty, International Labor Organization, 2008.

²⁶ Ratified by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 21, 2005.

²⁷ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 28.11.2005.

Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two optional protocols, and others.

Kazakhstan is a party to the Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families of the CIS Member States (2008),²⁸ bilateral agreements on labor migration (*Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan etc.*) and others.

Kazakhstan was recommended to ratify the main human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, namely International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.²⁹

In its 2nd Periodic Report on Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³⁰ the Republic of Kazakhstan noted that it was considering a "premature accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as in case of Kazakhstan's accession thereto, extra budget funds will be required to meet its certain provisions."

Kazakhstan, being a member of the ILO since 1993, has ratified all of its 8 fundamental of priority conventions, such as the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention³¹, Forced Labor Convention, Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, Equal Remuneration Convention³², Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention³³, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention³⁴, and others.

Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Kazakhstan enjoys the same rights and bear the same obligations in labor relations as the nationals of the Republic of Kazakhstan (*Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the Legal Status of Foreigners"*), with the exception of the right to vote, to be elected to the representative and other elected government bodies and positions, and do an army service.

Migration control strategy provides for liberalization of labor migration conditions (**GCM's Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration**).

Establishing enabling conditions for attracting highly qualified overseas workers is a strategic objective outlined in Kazakhstan's 2025 development plan.

New approaches to establishing of an open labor market have been introduced. The issuing procedure for work permits has been revised, and some issuing conditions were cancelled (*a requirement for training, retraining, advanced training, job creation for the citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan*). A system has been introduced to attract specialists demanded in priority economic sectors under self-employment conditions.

Work permits are issued across the regions by Public Service Centers (*PSCs*) of the non-profit joint stock company State Corporation Government for the Citizens (*hereinafter-NPJSC SC Government for the Citizens*) as one-stop window. This means that the services are provided in one place in a centralized manner by the staff of PSCs, medical organizations, insurance companies, and second-tier banks. Labor migrants obtain work permits within 40 minutes, and within 30 minutes if file a request through Electronic Government portal.

²⁸ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 31.12.2009.

²⁹ Concluding remarks of the Committee on the Rights of the Child dated 30.10.2015 (see CRC / C / KAZ / CO / 4, par. 66).

³⁰ E / C.12 / KAZ / 2, previewed by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the 16th, 17th and 30th meetings held on 27.02., 28.02., 08.03.2019. (see E / C.12 / 2019 / SR.16 and E / C.12 / 2019 / SR.17).

³¹ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 20.07.1999.

³² Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 12/14/2000

³³ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 26.12.2002.

³⁴ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 30.12.1999.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan is charged with issuing quotas for foreign labor force (FLF), paying benefits and compensations to oralmans and their family members.³⁵ For 2020, the labor force quota was approved at the rate of 0.32% to total labor force or 29.3 thousand units.

According to the ministerial data, as of September 1, 2020, 16.378 foreign nationals work in the country under permits issued by local executive bodies, and the number of employers who brought FLF stands at 1.803.

Most foreign specialists work in construction (44%), mining (9%), manufacturing (7%), science and technology (7%), agriculture, forestry and fisheries (6%).

The main countries of origin of labor migrants are China – 3.579 people (21%), Uzbekistan – 1.774 people (10%), Turkey – 1.661 people (10%), India – 1.266 people and (7%), Great Britain – 1.081 people (6%).

Over 2.4 thousand employers were held administratively liable for violation of foreign labor force attraction rules (380 over 9 months of 2020).

The EAEU nationals work in Kazakhstan with no special permits as labor contracts suffice. Migrant workers and members of their families are registered for the duration of a labor contract.

The procedure for intra-corporate transfers has been defined based upon country commitments undertaken while acceding to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Specialists of the companies established in the WTO countries can be transferred to Kazakhstan branches and representative offices for up to 3 years, they get a work permit free and are not covered by FLF quota.

Kazakhstan has not yet ratified the ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (*Convention No. 189*).

Still, domestic workers, mostly women, remain the least protected group of hired workers, as shown by the study “Monitoring the Access of Migrants to Decent and Effective Employment” (2018) conducted by the Nur-Sultan branch of the Red Crescent Society of the Republic of Kazakhstan with IOM support.

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern over the persistence of child labor among migrants and residents of Kazakhstan, including on tobacco, cotton, agricultural farms.³⁶

To ensure **gender equality**, the 2030 Concept of Family and Gender Policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan was adopted. "The goals of the state gender policy shall be to achieve equal rights, benefits, responsibilities and opportunities for men and women in all spheres of society, to overcome all forms and manifestations of gender discrimination."³⁷

The Concept's 2nd stage is now underway³⁸ with activities for ensuring equal employment for men and women, improving access to employment and training opportunities, and social security programs for disadvantaged groups of women, including migrant women.

³⁵Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Some Issues of Implementation of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated August 17, 2010 No. 1039" dated September 22, 2010. No. 1066; Regulation on the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan approved by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 18.02.2017. No. 81.

³⁶E / C.12 / KAZ / CO / 2, para. 38. See also CCPR / C / KAZ / CO / 2, par. 35.

³⁷Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Approval of the Concept of Family and Gender Policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030" dated 06.12.2016.

³⁸ Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated May 21, 2020 No. 315.

The **programs to protect children** in migration processes were launched in Kazakhstan's regions to comprehensively cover them with social, psychological and legal assistance (**GCM's Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration**).

In 2018, more than 25 thousand foreign children were present in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Republic ensures the implementation of Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Kazakhstan³⁹ on the right to education for children of migrants, oralmans in accordance with current legislation.

A set of measures is underway towards educational and scientific development. The Republic has committed itself to achieving UN SDG 4 until 2030 and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The State Program for Educational and Scientific Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020 - 2025 was adopted.⁴⁰

Local executive bodies allocate seats in schools and preschools for migrants pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.⁴¹ Children of foreigners and stateless persons permanently residing in the Republic as well as temporary residents (refugees, asylum seekers, consular officials, diplomatic officers, labor migrants working in the Republic of Kazakhstan under the migration legislation) enjoy the same rights as the nationals of Kazakhstan at the educational institutions.⁴²

In case the police identifies a migrant child left without parental care, such a child will be sent to the regional Minors Adaptation Center (MAC) until an adult relative is found to take responsibility over him.

Children at MACs receive special social services in full as defined in a standard regulating the provision of special social services in the field of education and protection of children's rights (*social, medical, psychological, pedagogical, etc.*).

As the data from the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan suggest, there are currently 11 migrant children at MACs from the Republic of Uzbekistan (*2 children in Nur-Sultan, 5 in Almaty, and 4 in Shymkent*).

With the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (*UNICEF*), the Mapping of Kazakhstan's National System Capacity Gaps to Respond to the Needs of Children Affected by Migration with a Focus on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (*UASC*) was implemented and enabled the identification of key bottlenecks in the identification and support mechanisms for children affected by migration. The analysis of adolescent adaptation centers' activities showed that NGOs working with migrant families have little experience in helping children and require a set of social work methods.

The Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan together with UNICEF are engaged in outreach work for the most vulnerable groups of the population, especially children and families in difficult life situations across the regions. Programs are being implemented to prevent the

³⁹ Resolution of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 06.08.1994.

⁴⁰ Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 27, 2019. No. 988.

⁴¹ subparagraph 3) part 2 of article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On population Migration".

⁴² The rules for obtaining preschool, primary, basic secondary and general secondary education by foreigners and stateless persons permanently residing in the Republic of Kazakhstan, approved by order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 09.28.2010. No. 468.

spread of COVID-19 among children affected by migration. This includes promoting hygiene practices that help prevent transmission of infection in childcare settings.

Since 2018, the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan, together with the Government, national and international partners (*IOM, UNHCR, the European Union*), have launched a three-year program aimed to protect the rights of children affected by migration.

The program envisages to promote dialogue between the governments of Central Asian countries and independent human rights organizations on the creation and strengthening of information exchange systems between the countries for tracking the whereabouts of family members and their reunification, statelessness status of children, and monitoring the status of children affected by migration.

The Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Marriage (Matrimony) and the Family” was amended to provide for universal registration of birth of all children, regardless of the legal status of their parents, which was an important step towards ending the statelessness. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan has also introduced a newborn registration service by an SMS sent to a mother's phone.

The Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan together with UNICEF has developed a training program for migration officials and social workers in accordance with international standards and best practices for working with children affected by migration.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan is taking measures to search for the missing individuals, including for the prevention of illegal exploitation and trafficking of migrants (**GCM’s Objective 8: Save lives and establish international coordination efforts on missing migrants**).

The procedure for tracing of the missing persons is regulated by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Law Enforcement Intelligence Operations” dated September 15, 1994, and other regulatory legal acts.

Countering illegal migration (GCM’s Objective 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants) is carried out in cooperation with the competent authorities of the CIS member states and other states under Cooperation agreements with CIS member states on Tackling Illegal Migration dated 03/06/1998⁴³, on Countering Illegal Labor Migration from Third Countries dated 19.11.2010⁴⁴ and other treaties as well as on bilateral basis (*Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, etc.*) and within the framework of unions, organizations (EAEU, CSTO, SCO).⁴⁵

To ensure the effective tracking of migration flows, all branches of the migration service are connected to the unified electronic monitoring system for immigrant entry, exit and stay of immigrants.

There are special units combating illegal migration within the bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. A training center for combating illegal migration and human trafficking was set up for the specialists.

In 2018, the criminal liability for organizing illegal migration was tightened under Article 394 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan (*public works were added as*

⁴³ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 13.12.2000.

⁴⁴ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 28, 2011.

⁴⁵ Eurasian Economic Community, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

optional punitive measure). Should illegal migration be organized by a criminal group, it will face a prison term between 3 to 7 years.

Kazakhstan is a party to principal multilateral international treaties **to combat trafficking in persons**: the UN Slavery Convention⁴⁶, UN Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others⁴⁷, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁴⁸, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography⁴⁹, Agreement on Cooperation of the CIS Member States in Combating Trafficking in Persons, Human Organs and Tissues dated November 25, 2005, and others (**GCM's Objective 10**: Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration).

To ensure and coordinate activities related to the control, prevention and combating the crimes related to trafficking in persons, the Action Plan for the Control, Prevention and Combating the Crimes of Trafficking in Persons for 2018-2020 was approved.⁵⁰

Measures are taken to combat trafficking in persons within the framework of the Interstate Program of Joint Measures to Combat Crimes for 2019 - 2023 adopted by the Council of the Heads of State of the CIS on September 28, 2018.

The Criminal Code establishes liability for crimes related to human trafficking, in particular, for kidnapping for exploitation; illegal imprisonment for exploitation; human trafficking; involvement of a minor in prostitution; trafficking in minors; involvement in prostitution; organizing or maintaining dens for prostitution and pimping; coercion to removal or illegal removal of human organs and tissues.

The maximum sentence of up to 15 years in prison is a measure of punishment for other grave and high crimes.

As the data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs suggest over the past three years 6 organized groups engaged in human trafficking and their criminal activities have been suppressed. Two pathways used to bring the nationals from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan for labor exploitation and other 7 channels for the export of our nationals for sexual exploitation to Qatar, Indonesia, Bahrain, the Emirates, Turkey and South Korea were cut.

In case an individual who was held administratively liable is recognized as victim in a criminal case of human trafficking as prescribed by law, such individual should be exempted from administrative charges (*Clause 11*) Article 741.1 of the Administrative Code). The victims of trafficking shall be provided with housing, food, clothing and physical security.

Since 2003, a dialogue platform has been created between the state and civil sectors in the form of the Interagency Commission on Combating Trafficking in Persons (*consultative and advisory body under the Government*) consisting of the representatives of NGOs, international organizations (*OSCE and IOM*), the Commission on Human Rights under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the National Center for Human Rights, and other state bodies.

Similar regional commissions operate under the akimats of the regions and the cities of national status. The functions of the working body are performed by the Ministry of

⁴⁶ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 05.02.2008.

⁴⁷ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 14.12.2005.

⁴⁸ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 04.06.2008.

⁴⁹ Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 04.07.2001.

⁵⁰ Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 01.10.2018 No. 609.

Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, which chairmanship alternates every two years.

Protection and assistance to victims of trafficking are provided under the Law of the RK On State Protection of Persons that Are Parties in Criminal Proceedings dated 05.07.2000. Pursuant to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan On Victims Compensation Fund dated 10.01.2018, persons who are recognized as victims of trafficking shall be entitled to a compensation in the amount of 30 monthly calculation indices (72,000 *tenge*) beginning with the year 2020.

To assist the victims of trafficking, there were adopted the abuse assessment criteria⁵¹ which help to identify the victims of trafficking. The criteria enable the victims of trafficking access to special social services provided up to a standard approved back in 2015.⁵²

Since 2016, organizations have been operating in each region to provide special social services to victims of trafficking at the expense of budget funds.

In the current year, the internal affairs bodies referred 30 persons to 20 organizations for special social services who received social, medical, legal and other necessary services.

Constructive cooperation is carried out with international organizations within the framework of the signed Memoranda between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the IOM Subregional Office for Central Asia in the Republic of Kazakhstan (2012) as well as the OSCE Office in Nur-Sultan (2016).

The nationwide helpline for combating human trafficking "116 16" operates 24/7 at the Union of Crisis Centers with the support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and IOM.

The nationwide information campaign "United in the Fight against Human Trafficking!" is carried out annually to raise public awareness about human trafficking. Within the crime control and detection operations, police conduct a law enforcement and preventive operation called STOP traffic on a quarterly basis. Together with IOM, the interregional project Combating Human Trafficking through Combating Recruitment by Internet and others was successfully implemented.

Measures are taken towards simplification of physical crossing of state borders and unification of visa and migration requirements.⁵³ (**GCM's Objective 11:** Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner). Public relations in the field of protection of the State Border of the Republic of Kazakhstan are regulated by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan On the State Border of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 16.01.2013.

Measures are taken towards establishing conditions for migrants' social inclusion (**GCM's Objective 15 and 16:** Provide access to basic services for migrants and **GCM's Objective 16:** Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion).

Immigrants in the Republic enjoy the rights and freedoms established for the citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, unless otherwise provided in the Constitution, laws and international treaties, they have the right to **education, medical and social assistance** as set out by a procedure outlined in the national legislation, to free movement within the territory of the country open for immigrants, free choice of place of residence, representation at courts

⁵¹Joint order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 09.22.2014. No. 630, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated September 26, 2014. No. 399 and the Minister of Health and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 19, 2014. No. 240.

⁵² Order of the Minister of Health and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 03.26.2015 No. 165.

⁵³Initiative 3.35 "Simplification of procedures for migration control and visa processing" of the Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025.

and state bodies for the protection of their property and personal non-property rights, to services in the centers for adaptation and integration of oralmans (*article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Population Migration"*).

Kazakhstan is a party to international conventions containing provisions on non-discrimination (**GCM's Objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration**).

This principle has been recognized as a constitutional norm. Article 14.2 of the Constitution proclaims that "no one may be subjected to any discrimination by origin, social, official and property status, sex, race, nationality, language, attitude to religion, beliefs, place of residence or any other grounds".

Article 12.4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan states that foreigners and stateless persons in the Republic enjoy the rights and freedoms and also bear the obligations established for the nationals, unless otherwise provided by the Constitution, laws and international treaties.

The prevention of discrimination is outlined in the national legislation as a migration control principle. Foreigners are guaranteed equality before the law, the right to go to court, where they enjoy procedural rights on an equal basis with the nationals of the Republic, and other state bodies to have their rights protected (*Article 3.18 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the Legal Status of Foreigners"*).

Direct or indirect restriction of the rights and freedoms of a person (national) by origin, social, official or property status, sex, race, nationality, language, religious beliefs, beliefs, place of residence, membership in public associations or any other ground are deemed to constitute a criminal offense subject to persecution (*Article 145 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan*).

The CIS Agreement on Cooperation in Labor Migration and Social Protection of Migrant Workers (1994), to which Kazakhstan is a party, includes provisions for mutual recognition of diplomas and other documents on education, professional qualifications and work experience (**GCM's Objective 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competencies**). The Rules of recognition and nostrification of academic documents are in force and regulate the process of recognition and nostrification of documents on basic secondary, general secondary, technical and vocational, post-secondary, higher and postgraduate education of individuals who graduated in other countries or from foreign educational institutions (their branches).⁵⁴

Remittances of migrant workers from Central Asian countries are an essential source of household budgets in the country of origin and account for a significant share in the GDP of the countries of origin of migrants (**GCM's Objective 20: Promote faster, safer, cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants**).

"A drop in remittances entails the growing risk of poverty for the Central Asian countries as most households with labor migrants working in other countries rely on remittances the only source of income."⁵⁵

"According to the news release disseminated by the National Bank of Kazakhstan on June 3, 2020, the total volume of money transfers by payment systems in January-April

⁵⁴Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 10.01.2008. No. 8.

⁵⁵ Report "Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Migrants and Remittances in Central Asia", p. 51. IOM project "Asian Regional Migration Program", source: <https://kazakhstan.iom.int/publications>.

2020 amounted to 246.2 billion tenge or approximately 613 million US dollars. This is 18.2% less than in the same period of the last year. Still the volume of overseas transfers to Kazakhstan dropped by 30.7%. Total volume of remittances received in Kazakhstan includes a 27.7% share of the Russian Federation. The overseas transfers in April 2020 dropped significantly and amounted to only 43.2% of the level of April 2019. Top countries in the structure of money transfers from Kazakhstan to foreign countries are taken by the Russian Federation (37.7% in April 2020) and Uzbekistan (31.8%), Kyrgyzstan accounts for about 4.9% of the total amount of transfers, and Tajikistan about 2%⁵⁶.

Under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ratified by the Republic, the participating States recognize the right of everyone to social security (**GCM's Objective 22**: Establish mechanisms for portability of social security entitlements and earned and acquired benefits”).

The UN Country Team praised the process of implementation of economic and social rights undertaken to “leave no one behind”, having noted noting five social initiatives that Kazakhstan was implementing since March 2018.⁵⁷ These include lowering the cost of affordable housing and income tax reductions for low-paid populations.⁵⁸

On December 20, 2019, the Agreement on Pension for Workers of the EAEU Member States was signed. The Unified Accumulative Pension Fund has been designated in the country as a competent authority for its implementation.

Foreigners and stateless persons temporarily staying in the territory of the Republic and asylum seekers receive medical assistance in the manner and volume stipulated by regulatory legal acts.

Clause 1 of the Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On People's Health and Healthcare System” dated 07.07.2020 states that these persons are entitled to a guaranteed amount of free medical aid (*GVFMA*) for diseases that threaten other people under the list and in the amount determined by the authorized body, unless otherwise provided by the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan or ratified international treaties.⁵⁹

Foreign workers arriving for self-employment or recruited by employers, including through intra-corporate transfer, business immigrants, seasonal foreign workers are required to have health insurance covering primary health care (*PHC*) and inpatient care.⁶⁰ Labor immigrants, regardless of the length of in-country stay, shall have the right to appeal to the mandatory social health insurance system (*SHIS*), also if they fall under the categories covered by the state.

To receive medical care within the mandatory health insurance system, labor immigrants must be insured and have a voluntary insurance policy that covers *PHC* services. A *PHC* institution shall provide medical care for immigrants upon an insurance contract.

For EAEU nationals, ambulance and emergency medical care services shall be provided free of charge and in full volume by medical and preventive institutions, regardless

⁵⁶ Report on Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Migrants and Remittances in Central Asia, pp. 64-65, source: <https://kazakhstan.iom.int/publications>.

⁵⁷ Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights dated August 26, 2019, source: <https://undocs.org/ru/A/HRC/WG.6/34/KAZ/2>.

⁵⁸ United Nations country team submission, par. 3.

⁵⁹ Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Approval of the Rules for Provision of Medical Care to Immigrants" dated 30.09.2011. No. 665.

⁶⁰ See subparagraph 6) of Article 35, subparagraph 3) of paragraph 1 of Article 39, subparagraph 4) of paragraph 3 of Article 41 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On population Migration".

of their ownership type under the Agreement on Provision of Medical Care to CIS nationals dated 03/27/1997 and the EAEU Treaty dated 05/29/2014.

From January 1 of this year, a total of 5109 foreign nationals were treated by medical organizations of the Republic for a total amount of 763.5 million tenge.

Expanding international cooperation.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan signed 25 international agreements, including 5 on migration cooperation, 3 on stay of the nationals in the territories of the parties, 17 on migration readmission (**GCM's Objective 23**: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration). The signature of readmission agreements with 36 more countries is underway (**GCM's Objective 21**: cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration).

4. Means of Implementation

Since Kazakhstan is a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants, the promotion of a safe, orderly **and regular migration remains a priority**.

The Review enabled the identification of financial, human and other needs and the call for expert and technical support for effective implementation of GCMs' target objectives.

The fullest integration of GCM's strategy and objectives will be facilitated by improved capacity of parties in the migration process, strengthened coordination and interaction, and an established interagency working group. Educational trainings shall be conducted for the officers of the migration service, special and law enforcement agencies, judges, labor and public social protection, education and science, healthcare, and others. The representative research programs should be expanded to identify key migration issues, especially amid global crisis.

Efforts should be aimed at establishing conditions for further localization of GCM's objectives in the documents of the state planning system and ensuring their effective implementation and monitoring.

Strengthened progress of GCM's implementation will be facilitated by consolidated efforts of the participating States, expanded international cooperation and rapid exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned. To strengthen the partnership in SDG's regional promotion, Kazakhstan geared the establishment of the UN Interregional Center for SDGs for Central Asia and Kazakhstan in Almaty.⁶¹ The on-site coordination of measures towards implementation of GCM's objectives in the Central Asian region seems promising.

5. Next Steps

Kazakhstan needs to continue working towards:

- further integration of GCM's strategies and goals into the national migration policy;
- improving national legislation related to protection of the rights and freedoms of migrants, overseeing the ratification of the UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, recognizing the competence of the UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers;
- improving the level of collection and monitoring of statistical migration data and their harmonization with international migration statistics, developing a migrant trends prediction mechanism;

⁶¹ Voluntary National Review "On the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", 2019, p. 129.

-presenting the transparent and up-to-date migration processes information, the outcomes of migration regulation operations by government agencies, broadly promoting the rights and obligations of persons affected by migration;

-minimization of the risks and elimination of vulnerabilities faced by migrants at various stages of migration through the observance of rights, protection from any form of discrimination, their help and support;

- improving the access of migrant workers to regular employment, promoting social and financial integration, developing targeted programs that stimulate their investment and entrepreneurial activity;

-protection of the rights of migrants in the most vulnerable situations in the context of gender, children's best interests and support at all stages of migration, improvement of reception and accommodation of migrants forced to leave their countries of origin and he measures to search for missing migrants.

Comprehensive and progressive national implementation of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration shall be continued.