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The Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Network on Migration and, with reference to the letter from Mr. António Vitorino, in his capacity as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, dated 21 September 2020, has the honour to send herewith Portugal's contribution to the IOM Regional Review Report of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The Permanent Mission of Portugal avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Network on Migration the assurances of its highest consideration.

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## Portugal's Contribution to the IOM Regional Review Report Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

### 1. Introduction

Portugal values cooperation as an essential tool to promote legal migration routes, as well as to define common protocols for crisis management, and migratory control. Our approach is focused on migrants themselves and perceives irregular migration as a process in which everyone loses, particularly migrants, whose rights are left unprotected, but also public authorities, who face difficulty in the task of monitoring undocumented people.

In Portugal immigration has always been a fundamental demographic and economic resource. It is due to the recognition of its importance that from the beginning the Portuguese Government has actively participated in the process that led to the approval of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), in late 2018. The GCM is the result of a major international negotiation in which the need to address migration in a comprehensive and integrated approach was reinforced. It is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.7. *to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*. As a result, Member States, Civil Society, and International Organisms are called upon to collaborate in the achievement of the 23 objectives that are included in the GCM.

Although the GCM has clear guidelines and concrete objectives, the engagement of many actors, both in the countries of origin, as well as of transit, and destination, is necessary to ensure its implementation. Considering the need to respect the value of sovereignty in the management of migration flows and policies, States play a key role. Therefore, the GCM presents broad lines of action that can and should be adapted to the migration reality of each country.

Acknowledging the importance of adequate reception and integration mechanisms, the GCM is seen as an opportunity for a comprehensive approach to the Portuguese migration policy. It is supported in other national public policy instruments, namely the 'Strategic Plan for Migration 2015-2020', the 'IV Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking 2018-2021' and the 'Strategy for Integrated Border Management'. The GCM stands as an important milestone towards achieving peace and social justice in our global society, in line with the pursuit of SDGs –



namely the implementation of a social protection system; the assurance of healthy lives and the promotion of well-being for all; the provision of quality education for every child, regardless of their nationality; and the promotion of gender equality; and providing decent work as well as promoting sustainable communities,

The Program of the Portuguese Government makes specific reference to the need to develop "ambitious national responses for the implementation of the Global Compact" (paras 53 of the GCM), and Portugal was the first country in the world to establish a National Plan for the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. In line with the 23 objectives of the GCM, the 97 measures of the National Plan are based both on an integrated governance approach of migration policies, developed in the country since 2007 and on an intercultural model of diversity management<sup>1</sup>.

The Government Program 2019-2023<sup>2</sup> is already aligned with the objectives of the Compact. The national plan was published in August 2019 and several initiatives have already been developed. Its gradual implementation is mirrored in annual action plans, that set deadlines, and identify which ministry is responsible for each measure, allowing a very clear definition of the expected results. Conceived as an operational document, the Plan stands on five fundamental axes. After the first year of implementation of the National Plan, and bearing into account the pandemic crisis that arose, there were several significant advances in the implementation of some measures and in the improvement of the several procedures, which we can highlight following the 5 axes defined.

- i. **The promotion of safe, orderly, and regular migration.** The creation of the new e-VISA portal, in March 2020, allows migrants to apply and consult the status of their visa application electronically, without leaving their home. regarding the flexibility of routes for regular migration, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) mobility agreement is also under negotiation.
- ii. **The improvement of the organization of migration flows and integrated border management.** Easier and better procedures for welcoming migrants are being considered, including the reduction of the number of visas and implementation of a Single Desk (*Balcão Único*), an electronic platform where citizens can upload documents and make requests from home. The Government has also been actively committed to fighting the

<sup>1</sup> <https://dre.pt/application/conteudo/124044668>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ps.pt/programa-eleitoral-ps-legislativas2019.pdf>





phenomenon of Trafficking in Human Beings, boosting training actions at the national and international levels, either for civil society or public entities, as well as concluding a protocol for the definition of procedures for the prevention, detention, and protection of child victims of trafficking in human beings.

- iii. **The promotion of the reception and integration of immigrants.** The immediate allocation of the social security number, regardless of the migrants' legal status, now allows immigrants access social support and strongly facilitates their regularization process – since January, more than 102.000 immigrants were able to get a social security number. Aiming to provide a better response to the migrant's need to learn Portuguese, Portuguese language courses have been redesigned, with a wider and more flexible offer, to ensure everyone has access Portuguese classes as a tool for their integration process.
- iv. **The support for migrants' attachment to their country of origin.** The Return Programme (*Programa Regressar*), launched in 2019, aims to support emigrants, as well as their descendants and family. The objective is that they are better prepared to return to Portugal and take advantage of the opportunities that currently exist in the country. The Program has already supported over 1,700 people, and reflects the 70% increase in requests for automatic recognition of academic or professional certification by emigrants, rising from 3.012 in 2018 to 5.134 in 2019. A mention should also be made to the National Program to Support Investment in the Diaspora, which was launched in July 2020, and that aims to encourage the return and investment of the Diaspora in Portugal, as well as to benefit from the presence of Portuguese communities abroad to promote Portuguese exports and investment.
- v. **Increasing partnerships for development with countries of origin and transit.** Labour mobility agreements with the Republic of Moldova, the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Republic of India are currently under negotiation. The Portuguese Government has also organized, with IOM, a technical webinar about labour mobility, emphasising the win-win situation that concerted routes allow, not only for States but also for migrants., The interest, willingness, and capacity to implement the GCM, seeking better management of the migratory phenomena, at the national and international level, has largely contributed for Portugal being recognized as a Champion Country in the area.



An interministerial coordination committee for the National Plan was formed, and is chaired by the Minister of State for the Presidency, which fosters a whole of government approach. Every three months an inter-ministerial meeting takes place. The first one was held in November, between the Minister of State for the Presidency, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security. In the meeting, the Working Group between Secretaries of State and their services was settled, who meet every month. In both cases, these meetings are used to discuss, accelerate and improve the implementation of concrete measures.

A network of focal points has also been established at the political and technical levels to enable faster and more effective communication. At the technical level, the High Commission for Migration, a public institute that develops public policies on migration, is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the National Plan. To ensure effective and close monitoring, a monthly reporting methodology from the services has been adopted, as well as defining and reassessing the state of implementation of each measure. Implementation is divided into three stages: yet to be started, under implementation, and completed.

Making this plan a reality, demands the coordinated participation of 16 areas of government and 27 public institutes, in their different spheres of action, which allows for a broad vision and an integrated approach to the migration phenomenon.

Taking into account Portugal's recognition as a Champion Country in the implementation of the GCM, this report aims to share our experience in implementing the Plan, identifying good practices and key challenges, and allowing other countries to build national plans based on lessons learned. This sharing process should cover not only the design phase of the plans but also their implementation and evaluation, in terms of the methodologies adopted and their effectiveness.

This report also contributes to the assessment of the first year of implementation of our National Plan, enhancing an ongoing monitoring methodology that triggers concerted and results-oriented action, focusing on the capacity to adapt the response to migration to the challenges that may arise, such as the pandemic crisis caused by SARS-CoV-2 period.

## **2. Progress on GCM objectives**

The Government has recognized the central role of Migration, creating a specific Secretary of State for Integration and Migration, under the orientation of the Minister of State for the Presidency.





Perceiving the importance of the growing trend that can be witnessed in regular and integrated migratory flows, which are crucial to the country's economic, social and cultural development, the Government has decided to pay great attention to the implementation of the National Plan of the Global Pact for Migration. The efficiency of the integration measures is essential to match the increase in the migration balance. Only a balanced result in this effort can provide a mutual benefit, both for the country and migrants themselves. The Plan, which should be fully implemented by 2021, pursues the ODS, and, as mentioned, is built on 5 axes, 23 objectives, and 97 measures. Its measures seek, on the one hand, to respond to the objectives enshrined in the GCM, while at the same time adapting them to our national reality, thus providing additional value to society.

Although the National Implementation Plan echoes the strong willingness of the Portuguese Government to welcoming migrants, pandemic-induced disturbances affected the established timelines. Despite these setbacks, the intention of working on measures to improve migrants' integration remained solid. That is why, **during the SARS-CoV-2 period, all immigrants and asylum seekers staying in national territory with pending applications on the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) have had their situation regarded as regular.** This decision was taken as an effort to do whatever could be done to save jobs, support vulnerable families, and protect the rights and expectations of immigrants residing in Portugal. Other measures targeting the wellbeing of migrants were also recently implemented and contribute to the implementation of the National Plan:

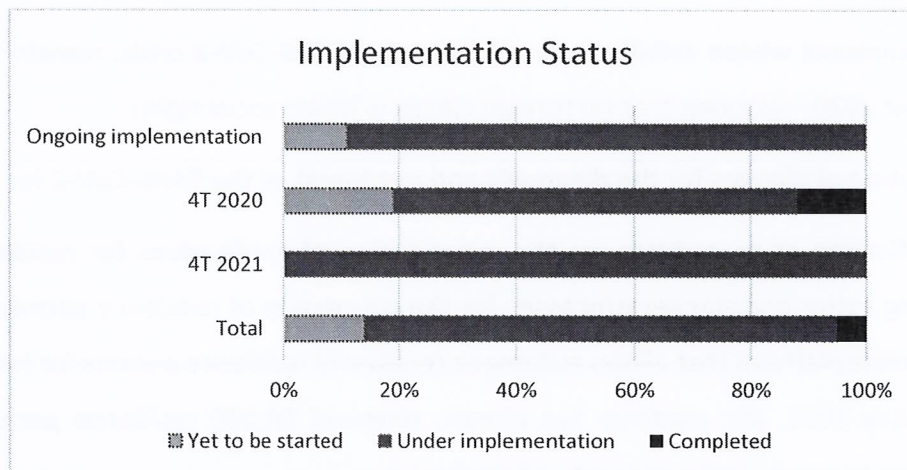
- i. **All documents whose validity expired during the SARS-CoV-2 crisis, remain valid until 30 October 2020** – assuring that no foreign citizen will lose social rights.
- ii. **Exemption of charges for the diagnosis and treatment of the SARS-CoV-2** for migrants.
- iii. **Simplification of procedures for the examination of applications for residence permits**, allowing faster and simpler processes for the concession of residence permits, also with a new online platform that allows automatic renewal of residence permits for foreign citizens. Since July 2020, this platform has already **renewed 50,000 residence permits**, allowing migrants to access social support and medical care.
- iv. **Mapping of the needs and vulnerabilities of immigrants** throughout the national territory, to establish appropriate social responses.
- v. **Outreach to children and young people under vulnerable situations during isolation, granting access to education**, reducing inequalities and providing equal opportunities for everyone, under 'Choices Programme' (*Programa Escolhas*).



- vi. **Supporting the return to Portugal of Portuguese citizens** through the consular network.
- vii. **Translation of materials alluding to the SARS-CoV-2 period** and facilitation of migrants' **interaction with the National Health Service through mediators and translators** (since March, 265 Translation Services have been provided).
- viii. **Publication of specific guidelines targeting health centres and hospitals** aimed at migrants in the framework of the SARS-CoV-2 period.
- ix. **Awareness-raising actions among immigrant populations**, covering all vulnerable situations.

Considering the above-mentioned measures, which enabled a humane and dignified response to citizens, not only during the SARS-CoV-2 period, reflect the joint and concerted work of various governmental areas and public institutions involved in implementing the Plan. It is the result of leveraging a whole of government approach, implemented alongside with civil society, through local policies that enable a whole of society approach.

Based on the Plan's methodology, it is possible to draw a quantitative assessment of the implementation status of the different measures, followed by concrete examples of measures and actions adopted for each of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact.



Note: taking into account that several measures are meant to be developed throughout all the process, they cannot be completed until the end of the Plan.

**Objective 1.** Collect and use accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies. Portugal has seen a significant increase in the number of residence seekers – in 2019 there was an increase of 23% in the number of foreign residents compared to 2018. It is, therefore,





necessary to monitor this dynamic and ensure that reliable data is available to support political decisions and policies. Portugal has a **Migration Observatory**, which every year produces a report on statistical indicators on the integration of migrants, based on data from a network of focal points of various public services, that will be expanded to achieve a holistic view on the integration path of immigrants in Portugal. Besides, reports are also produced on the entry of foreign citizens into Portugal, on the Portuguese Diaspora and other phenomena inherent to migratory flows, namely trafficking in human beings, international protection, ethnic-racial discrimination, among others. The consolidation of informed discourse and awareness-raising of society are the pursued goal.

Objective 2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin. As previously mentioned, Portugal finds partnerships with countries of origin, transit, and destination, essential to ensure that migration is conducted in a safe, orderly, and regular manner. In this context, the Government has not only actively participated in the negotiations for the implementation of a mobility regime in **the CPLP countries** but also contributed to the empowerment and training of workers in CPLP countries regarding trafficking in human beings and gender equality, as a way to raise awareness among civil society and professionals in the countries of origin for the full respect of Human Rights.

Objective 3. To provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration. The increase in immigration in Portugal also reflects new migratory dynamics. Therefore, the Portuguese Government has set up a Working Group among different bodies to build a **Welcome Guide for Migrants**, widely disseminated at the national and international level, with detailed information on rights and duties; legal framework of migration processes, language, culture, and social organization in Portugal, acquisition of nationality, family reunification, labour market; access to public services; recognition of qualifications, among other issues considered relevant. This work will provide a better awareness of migrant's rights and duties and have a great impact on their ability to deal with public services. All relevant information for citizens wishing to reside in Portugal will also be centralized in electronic channels, allowing citizens, before departing to Portugal, to have access to essential information about their stay. Information is also being widespread in the countries of origin, in cooperation with local authorities, diplomatic and consular missions, and civil society organizations - on the mechanisms available for regular and organized migration.

Objective 4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation. The consistent and significant increase in the number of foreign citizens residing in the country has caused some constraints on the entities' ability to respond to citizens and ensure their documentation. That is why the Government has worked systematically to ensure that citizens can have their situation regularized. Besides the abovementioned measures that contribute to the regularization of migrants, the Government has taken several other steps in this regard, including:

- i. **Extension of the periods** for the concession and renewal of **residence permits**;
- ii. **Moving immigration services to citizens living in rural areas**, vulnerable groups (namely in cases of neglected minors, the elderly, pregnant women, bedridden and/or hospitalized, the motor/sensory disabled, prisoners) or to schools, ensuring that everyone has access to adequate documentation. In 2019, through this program, more than **800 citizens** managed to regularize their situation.
- iii. Establishment of **electronic platforms** to speed up the nationality assessment process, reducing the time and improving procedures.

Objective 5. Enhance the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration. Besides the previously mentioned labour mobility negotiations, the Government intends to expand negotiations to other states. This way, the channels for secure and regular migration are increased, fostering a win-win situation. In this context, **community funds were allocated to support civil society in building regular migration projects** and preventing phenomena such as the smuggling of migrants and trafficking.

Objective 6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work. Decent work is the right of all citizens and needs to be specially preserved for immigrant workers. Proximity is sought to ensure that the rights are fully implemented. That is why the Portuguese Government will extend the **Professional Integration Offices for Immigrants (GIP Imigrante) network, doubling** as the number of offices, which will provide outreach support to all citizens who wish to start a professional activity. Moreover, to guarantee an efficient inspection of labour conditions, actions in the field are being carried out by the Foreigners and Borders Service and the Authority for Working Conditions, to detect situations of labour exploitation and trafficking in human beings and provide protection to citizens.



Objective 7. To address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration. Reducing vulnerabilities is an essential step to ensure integration into society. Thus, Portugal has a public institute - the High Commission for Migration - that works in articulation with other public services to ensure a response to migrants. The **High Commission for Migration has National Centres for Support the Integration of Migrants** that operate in a one-stop-shop model, providing an integrated service to assist migrants in social, legal, family reunification, qualification and skills, entrepreneurship, health and nationality assessment matters. There is also a network of **Local Centres to Support the Integration of Migrants**, as a result of a partnership with Local Authorities or civil society entities, with 106 centres scattered throughout Portugal, all of which promoting proximity services. Besides, it is important to train the professionals from public services that deal every day with migrants regarding interculturality and welcoming and integration policies – since August 2019, more than 1.300 professionals were trained in these regards. Finally, support to civil society is also an essential tool for combating the vulnerabilities of migrants, which is why during last year several actions for the empowerment of immigrant associations were led (including 97 participants).

Objective 8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants. The Government has been actively working on the establishment of a **National Strategy for Integrated Border Management**, to ensure a better response to the challenges faced by many migrants in their journey through the country of destination.

Objective 9. Strengthen the transnational response to the smuggling of migrants. Due to the need to intensifying international cooperation against the **smuggling of migrants**, the Government has **trained professionals** at the national level to raise their awareness on this issue - between 2019 and 2020, more than 300 professionals were trained. Portugal also actively collaborates with EUROPOL, promoting joint actions with the other Member States.

Objective 10. To prevent, combat, and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration. The Government has mechanisms at the national level to respond to victims and besides being currently concluding the protocol for child victims of trafficking in human beings as abovementioned, the **Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings collaborates with UNODC** for training and translation of materials related to the issue for sharing with PALOP countries.

Objective 11. To manage borders in an integrated, secure, and coordinated manner. The Portuguese Government has participated in the developments towards the creation of a **Common**

**Information Sharing Environment and information integration of maritime surveillance systems** and coordinates the implementation of the **European project EUCISE2020**. Similarly, and considering border relations with Spain, there have been over 200 joint operations between the Portuguese and Spanish authorities.

Objective 12. To strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment, and referral. The Government has invested in systematic **training of civil servants** and other relevant authorities to facilitate the identification and monitoring of both **victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants**. It has also developed a platform that allows more efficient and integrated document management, with special emphasis on streamlining the decision-making process for the status of a foreign resident.

Objective 13. Use immigration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives. Guaranteeing access to safe, orderly, and regular migration is the duty of any State, and the Government is committed to promoting the regularization of immigrants at the expense of detention measures. Public services actively collaborate in the referral of citizens who need to make their situation regular (between August 2019 and September 2020, around **69.000 citizens sought out the High Commission for Migration** in matters relating to their stay on national territory), providing them institutional responses.

Objective 14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle. The Government is under negotiations with Argentina for a memorandum of understanding on consular matters and has put in place **144 protocols with municipalities** across the continent to help emigrants who return to the country or which to fly abroad.

Objective 15. To provide access to basic services for migrants. As expressed in objective 7, Portugal has created integrated services to address migration-related issues. In this area, and in addition to the proximity services already mentioned, there is also a **Migrant Helpline**, which since August 2019 has carried out more than **60,711 calls**, and a **Telephone Translation Service**, which in the same period has carried out **2,364 telephone translations**. Taking into account the main dimensions of integration, it is important to specify the work that has been done for immigrants in different areas:





i. The approximately **5,000 trainees in Portuguese language** learning actions in 2019 and the **changes into the Portuguese courses**. Foreign children and young people living in Portugal also have access to the education system and to language learning, aware that the process of welcoming newly arrived children and young people into the education system is central to their successful inclusion. Portugal has developed a vast framework of initiatives for inclusion in the education and training system throughout compulsory schooling, which enable the education system to quickly and effectively respond to integration needs, from documentation to vocational guidance, psychological support, and socio-linguistic training, always aiming at a facilitating strategy and the creation of equal conditions of access to the curriculum and the school success of migrant pupils.

ii. Within the scope of housing support, efforts are being made to build housing responses to address the vulnerabilities of the immigrant population, not only for emergencies but also to build autonomous housing. Outreach work is being done with local authorities, **174** of which have already presented **Local Housing Strategies** to improve housing conditions for the general population, including the immigrant population.

Objective 16. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion. Integration cannot only take place with the immigrant population, the host society must be empowered and supported throughout the process. The Government has developed a partnership work with civil society, fostering local integration policies. Thus, since 2015, Portugal implemented **44 municipal plans for the integration of migrants**, reinforcing the will of the municipalities to participate in the answer, considering the benefits of immigration to territories with a lower density population. At the same time, the implementation of the 8th Generation of the '**Choices Program**' (**Programa Escolhas**) was approved. This Program, which already counts 20 years, has already covered 650 projects and 400,000 participants. In 2019-2020 it had 29,000 participants, in which 5,800 are immigrants or descendants of immigrants. This Program works with an emphasis on the areas of prevention of juvenile delinquency, reduction of early school leaving and promotion of responsible and inclusive entrepreneurship. Work has also been done to strengthen civil society projects at the financial level, ensuring response, and viability in the pursuit of the objectives.

Objective 17: To eliminate all forms of discrimination and to promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration. The government has developed contacts with regional development coordinating committees to raise media awareness on discrimination issues and to provide public incentives for local or regional media to comply with the principle of tolerance by encouraging the reporting of any situation of intolerance, xenophobia, racism, or discrimination against migrants. At the same time, it was awarded the **Journalism Prize Human Rights & Integration** and a ceremony has already taken place. The **Migration Observatory** also publishes regular statistical information and studies on specific integration factors.

Objective 18: To invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications, and competences. The Government has been actively working to combat barriers to the entry of **foreign students** into Portugal, aligning the actions of consular, immigration, and higher education services. Similarly, within the scope of the Study, and Research in Portugal initiative, promoted in cooperation with higher education institutions, **awareness-raising actions**, and information sessions have been held in various Portuguese, or Portuguese-speaking communities, including South Africa, Germany, Brazil, France, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, as well as FAQs on procedures for "How to obtain recognition of professional qualifications", available in various languages.

Objective 19: To create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries. As abovementioned, not only the Return Program but also the **National Program to Support Investment in the Diaspora** are meant to establish conditions and incentives for emigrants to contribute to the development of societies, not only in Portugal but also abroad, in their countries of residence. A mention should also be made to the implementation of a campaign through the consular representations and media of the diaspora to promote the school year 20/21.

Objective 20: To promote the faster, safer, and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants. The **Tax System for Non-habitual Residents** has been improved, introducing a new table of activities with high added value for the regime for non-habitual residents. Work is also being carried out to assess the legal and administrative conditions for transferring remittances from emigrants to their countries of origin, eliminating any obstacles to their implementation in a simple and timely manner.



Objective 21: To cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration. Since August 2019, the High Commission for Migration has carried out 524 voluntary return visits, in conjunction with the **IOM**, to support migrants who are nationals of third countries and do not qualify to stay in Portugal and who wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin, to do so in a dignified and safe manner, and can be supported to achieve sustainable reintegration, with full respect for their human rights, regardless of their migratory status.

Objective 22: To establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits. Regarding social welfare, Portugal has several **bilateral conventions** with other states which provide for the bundling of rights. As far as the Member States of the European Union are concerned, bundling applies to all. In this respect, the **Ibero-American Multilateral Convention on Social Security**, currently covering 11 countries, can be highlighted.

Objective 23: To strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration. Portugal has been actively participating in requests for collaboration and information sharing regarding the implementation of the GCM. It has also been active and regularly participating in the meetings of the **Group of Friends of Migration** and is also part of the core group of subscribers to the joint declaration on COVID-19 and migrants, published this June. In this regard, the UNSG's policy brief "**COVID-19 and People on the Move**", to which the Portuguese Government contributed, is also to be welcomed.

### **3. Means of implementation and next steps**

One year after the establishment of the National Plan, efforts have been made to ensure its implementation in the fastest and better way possible, recognising the benefit that the objectives enriched in the GCM bring to societies of origin, transit, and destination. Despite the results already achieved and the monitoring of the Plan, we have faced some challenges throughout the process.

i. The need to optimise the articulation between governmental areas and services involved in the Plan, to boost the implementation of measures of greater complexity and/or involving several actors, for which the network of focal points was established and is being streamlined.

ii. To maintain the commitment to the implementation of the measures in the face of changes in strategic options which may conflict with pre-established measures; in



particular, in the new context of the SARS-CoV-2 period, which has proven several constraints in the development of some measures of the Plan.

iii. Identification and harmonization of the indicators for measures, thus allowing a clear evidence-based result, goal-oriented and allowing monitoring, an ongoing process.

iv. Overcome the difficulties inherent in the implementation of measures aimed at making legislative changes, such as the amendment to Foreigner's Law – for which we created a multidisciplinary Working Group.

v. Foster the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the National Plan (as stated in paras 15 of the GCM) aiming to achieve a full whole-of-society approach. In this regard, it is important to mention that Portuguese public policies related to migrants, as abovementioned, are based on the collaboration with civil society, incorporating strategies for concerted action by the different entities working in the area of migration, at the local level, and which contribute to the implementation of the multisectoral process of integration of immigrants into Portuguese society, thus contributing to more appropriate management of migration flows at the level of local development. In parallel, the Migration Council is a body for consultation, support, and participation in the definition of the general lines of action of the High Commission for Migration, ensuring the participation, and collaboration of public and private entities in the definition, and implementation of migration policies.

Bearing in mind the challenges highlighted, we believe that our methodology, with concrete and dynamic coordination and the prioritisation of the proximity and different levels of actors involved in the implementation of the National Plan, allowed not only a faster and easier adaptation process to difficulties that arose but results that already impacted citizens and integration processes.

In this regard, as the implementation of the GCM depends on the capacity of each State to implement the measures it has set itself, the role of sharing good practice is even more important, but also challenges in pursuing the objectives. It is therefore important that the platforms enshrined in the GCM, namely the Connection Hub and Global Knowledge Platform, can be dynamised and thus contribute to encouraging States to report on the state of implementation and development of their national plans. It is important to share experiences, advances and challenges, through





regular sharing and discussion forums, not only at a high level but involving multiple international actors.

As for the next steps, it would be also of great interest the development of a platform for the national plan monitoring, as data helps to manage not only the policies related to migration but no enhance evidence-based debate regarding the benefits of the migrant to society.

This report is also part of the preparation for a first public balance on the National Plan, which will occur in October, as an important step towards providing feedback to society on the developments achieved. All these processes converge towards a commitment to a whole of society approach and improvement of international cooperation. In an attempt to promote safe, orderly and regular migration, as the most effective way of framing human mobility movements, managing demographic dynamics and enhancing their contribution to the development of countries of origin, transit, and destination, the National Implementation Plan of the GCM has proved to be coherent and enhance effective policies.