United Nations
Network on Migration
Working Better Together

11 June 2019

Terms of Reference for the Regional United Nations Migration Network for West and Central Africa

Mission Statement

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

In all its actions, the Regional Network will be guided, inter alia, by the United Nations Charter, international law, the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, and the GCM. It will align itself, in its working methods, with the terms of reference of the global UN Network on Migration.

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

Objectives of the Network
In order to implement its mission, the Regional Network commits to taking concrete actions, as follows:
- Share regular updates on key/ emerging migration issues with members of the Regional Network; and share relevant data, documents, studies and practical information in order to foster a holistic understanding of the West and Central African context;
- Ensure at the regional level in coordination with the UN Migration Network Secretariat and Executive Committee, effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, for the rights and wellbeing of all migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit;
- Support other global initiatives such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development in their effort to progress the GCM with a focus on West and Central Africa ;
- Support coherent action by the UN system at country and regional levels in support of GCM implementation, in line with the global UN Network on Migration initiatives and where such action would add value, while ensuring well-defined linkages with UN structures at all levels;
- Act as a source of ideas, tools, reliable data and information, analysis, exchange of good practices, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanism established in the GCM and the set-up of a Knowledge Platform at the regional level ;
- Ensure Regional Network actions promote the application of relevant international and regional norms and standards relating to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants;

- Provide leadership to mobilize coordinated and collaborative action on migration by the UN system, including by speaking with one voice as appropriate, in accordance with the EC Principles approach adopted the 8 May 2019, the UN Charter, international law, and the mandates and technical expertise of relevant UN system entities.
- Ensure close collaboration with other existing UN system coordination mechanisms addressing migration-related issues, actively seeking out synergies and avoiding duplication. This includes with the Economic Commission for Africa at the continental level;
  o Focus on strengthening links with other regional grouping such as ECOWAS and ECCAS and Regional Consultative Processes when relevant for the implementation of the GCM in the region;
- Provide support at the regional level to the capacity building mechanism, as outlined in the GCM.
- Organize once a year –contingent on   availability of resources -- a meeting between all the Regional Network members and external partners. This could include migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders;
- Provide information and guidance to RCs and UNCTs for the establishment of country-level UN Migration Networks in support of the GCM upon requests from RCs/UNCT.

Membership and Composition
The Regional Network will be comprised of all UN agencies that are part of the R-UNSDG in Dakar.

The Regional Network will complement and draw upon the expertise of other initiatives already in place in the region, such as the International Thematic Group on Migration in West Africa chaired by Switzerland and IOM, or the Working Group on Mixed Migration in West Africa.

Organizational arrangements
- The Regional Network will meet in Dakar, Senegal;
- The Regional Network will meet as needed and as a general rule every two months;
- The Regional Network will be co-chaired by the R-UNSDG chair and IOM Regional Director (IOM having been designated by the UN Secretary General as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration);

The **co-chairs** of the Regional Network will:
- Coordinate regional activities with the UN Network on Migration Secretariat and Executive Committee
- Deliver One Voice joint statement in the name of the Regional Network on specific issues at the request of its membership, in line with the One Voice note adopted by the EC Principlas' and after clearance by consensus on the content of the intervention by all members of the Executive Committee;
- Brief the UN system, Member States and other stakeholders on the activities of the Regional Network;
- Convene and chair meetings to ensure the smooth functioning of the Regional Network;
- Facilitate regular interaction between the members of the Regional Network ;
- Facilitate engagement on issues agreed on in consensus with relevant external stakeholders as the need arises (with representatives from INGOS, the private sector, academia, etc.);
The co-chairs will keep the member list updated and share it regularly with its members.

Members of the Regional Network will contribute to the design and implementation of the Regional Network's objectives, promote coherence on migration within the UN system, and provide input and advice to the Executive Committee on strategic priorities.

In line with the structure established by the UN Secretary General, an **Executive Committee** within the Network will be established and comprised of those entities with clear mandates, technical expertise and capacity in migration-related fields, including ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNODC. The Executive Committee will provide overall guidance to the work of the Regional Network, and work with its members to elaborate an annual working plan.

Decision-making
Decisions by the Network will be made by consensus of the Executive Committee after full consultations with all Network members.

Working Groups
  Smaller Working Groups can be established by the Executive Committee, as appropriate, to focus on specific issues;
  Working Groups, including their focus, composition and chair, will be developed over time as needs and opportunities emerge;
  The composition of Working Groups will be drawn from Network members and other partners, as relevant; Chairing or co-chairing will be open to all task force members;
  The Working Groups will be reviewed periodically by the Executive Committee, in consultation with Network members;

Annual Review
There will be at least one annual meeting of the full membership of the Network to include other relevant stakeholders, in order to review Network progress; explore ways to further enhance collaboration; identify emerging challenges.

Secretariat
Secretariat duties of the regional Network will be undertaken by the R-UNSDG Secretariat with support from IOM on substantive issues.

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