UN Migration Network in Bahrain

Terms of Reference

Background

On 10-11 December 2018, recalling the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and determined to make an important contribution to enhanced cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions, UN Member States adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). In this Declaration, Member States committed to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations that culminated in the adoption of the GCM by 165 UN Member States and formally endorsed by the UN General Assembly on the 19th of December 2018.[1]

The GCM is intended to set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions. The GCM rests on international law, respects the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and is rooted in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To this end, the United Nations established a UN Network on Migration at the global level to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States. In carrying out its mandate, the Network will prioritize the rights and wellbeing of migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit. It will place emphasis on those issues where a common UN system approach would add value and from which results and impact can be readily gauged.

In Bahrain, the UN will establish a Network on Migration as an internal coordination mechanism, designed to coordinate UN system-wide support to the Government of Bahrain and relevant non-governmental stakeholders in the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM. The Network on Migration will seek to tailor its support to the Government of Bahrain towards contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including its reporting for the Voluntary National Review on the SDGs, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) vision in light of the decision of Bahrain at the UN General Assembly in December 2018 to

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[1] A total of 152 UN Member States voted in favour of the GCM, five (5) voted against and twelve (12) abstained

vote in favour of the GCM. It will also support the implementation of the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and the Government Action Plan 2019-2022.

Network on Migration in Bahrain

The Network on Migration in Bahrain was launched during a United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meeting among UN Heads of agencies operating in Bahrain, in September 2020, and will work to coordinate UN agencies, both resident and non-resident. Other entities, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), and a range of other interested stakeholders such as the private sector, academia, employers' and workers' organizations may be invited at a later stage depending on their relevance to the issues being discussed. The established Network will support the Government in implementing effectively the GCM in Bahrain. Whilst being tailored to local needs and priorities, the terms of reference (ToRs) of the Network on Migration in Bahrain are fully aligned with the global UN Network on Migration ToRs.

Objectives:

1. Identify priority areas for joint programming (delivering as one UN), including but not limited to joint research and capacity building programming to support implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, and advance migration-related initiatives/discourses. SEP

2. Ensure coordination and synergies on key migration issues, such as, *inter alia*, trafficking in persons; migration and development; labour migration governance, including policy and legislation on admission, protection and return of migrant workers, including domestic workers; health of migrant workers, including universal health coverage and reproductive health and rights; as well as the impact of COVID-19. SEP

3. Periodically share with the relevant ministries and agencies of the Government of Bahrain updates about programme delivery and identify impediments for the UNCT to address.

4. Provide technical contributions to the global and regional UN Network on Migration and enhance coordination with the global and regional levels initiatives by developing policy briefs, policy papers, action plans, etc. SEP

5. Explore possibilities of coordination with relevant stakeholders for joint advocacy and effective service delivery.

6. Facilitate mechanisms for referral of individual cases between agencies with relevant mandates with

the aim of provision of appropriate assistance. ⌞SEP⌟

7. Mobilize funds and resources to enable joint programming and create synergies between the members of the Network. ⌞SEP⌟

8. Foster the engagement of civil society and other interested and relevant stakeholders, along with Government entities, in the areas related to migration under the established Network in the spirit of a whole-of-society approach. ⌞SEP⌟

Chair, Membership & Frequency of Meetings

Co-Chairs:

The Co-Chairs for the UN Network on Migration will be IOM and ILO, as endorsed by the UNCT members. The Co-Chairs will be responsible for coordinating the work and key administrative and operational functions of the group. The Network will fully draw from the technical expertise and experience of relevant entities within the United Nations system.

Coordinator and Secretariat: In line with the global ToRs of the UN Network on Migration, IOM will serve as the overall Coordinator and Secretariat of all constituent parts of the Network on Migration work that aligns to the objectives of the Network. Any decision taken by the Network on Migration will need to receive full consensus from all members.

Members:

The UNNM is comprised of UN agencies, both resident and non-resident in Bahrain. All UN agencies that are interested may participate in the meetings of the Network on Migration in Bahrain. They are invited by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) Office (RCO) to appoint a focal point and an alternate to attend these meetings.

Other participating stakeholders:

Government officials from relevant ministries are invited to participate as guest speakers on a periodic basis, which will assist the Network in the alignment of its activities with Government priorities and to support the exchange of information.

International development partners, academia, non-governmental and civil society organizations, worker and employer organizations, the private sector and the media can participate upon invitation.

Participation Level: Representatives/Deputies/Senior Programme Managers/Focal Points and/or Specialists.

Meeting Frequency: Bi-monthly and as needed.

Work Plan and Reporting

The Network will prepare an annual workplan establishing specific deliverables to be shared with the UNCT.

The Network will report on its progress and activities to the RC as well as to UNCT Heads of Agencies through the Chair bi-annually.

The Network will provide contributions to the UNCT Annual Coordination Framework report as requested by the RC.

Validity and Amendments

These Terms of Reference are effective as soon as approved and remain operational until terminated by agreement of the UNCT. They will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

These Terms of Reference may be amended or modified in writing after consultation with, and agreement of, the Network on Migration members and submission to the UNCT for review and endorsement.