



United Nations
Network on Migration
Working Better Together



Global Compact
FOR Migration

Integrating the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration into Voluntary Reviews of the 2030 Agenda

Guidance for governments and stakeholders

The opinions expressed in the publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Network on Migration and its members. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the publication do not imply expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Network on Migration and its members concerning legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

The United Nations Network on Migration was established to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support for implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). The Network consists of those members of the UN system who wish to be a part of it and for whom migration is of relevance to their mandates.

Reproduction is authorised with prior permission of the publisher.

Publisher:

The United Nations Network on Migration

17 route des Morillons

P.O. Box 17

1211 Geneva 19

Switzerland

Email: unmignet@iom.int

Website: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/>

Acronyms

| | |
|------|--|
| CSOs | Civil society organizations |
| GCM | Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration |
| HLPF | High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development |
| IMRF | International Migration Review Forum, |
| LRGs | Local and regional governments |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| UCLG | United Cities and Local Governments |
| VLRs | Voluntary Local Reviews |
| VNRs | Voluntary National Reviews |
| VSRs | Voluntary Subnational Reviews |

This Guidance provides key considerations, guiding questions, concrete actions and examples for governments and other stakeholders to support the inclusion of the GCM in voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

What are voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda?

- Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are voluntary and state-led processes, following Whole-of-Government, Whole-of-Society approaches, and are part of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development¹ and provide an opportunity for Member States to share successes, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- While VNRs are produced by national governments (engaging non-state actors), local and regional governments (LRGs) and authorities, and their national associations, also engage in decentralized reviews of the 2030 Agenda through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs), respectively. While VLRs and VSRs are not presented at the HLPF (like VNRs), they enable LRGs and national associations to review and report on SDG progress.
- Voluntary reviews can inform both strategic and sectorial priority-setting, implementation processes and follow-up actions, including national and local development plans and policies.

What connects voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda with the GCM?²

- Paragraph 29 of the 2030 Agenda directly recognises the relevance of safe, orderly and regular migration for sustainable development, and the leave no one behind pledge directly relates to the risk of migrants being left behind. Migration is a cross-cutting issue with linkages to all SDGs and is explicitly mentioned in target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. There is also reference to migrant workers in target 8.8, as well as trafficking in persons and exploitation in targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2.

1. <https://hlpf.un.org>
2. Refer to Section II (pages 43-45) of the Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Guidance for governments and all relevant stakeholders (2023) <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/gcm-guidance>

- The GCM builds on this recognition and is rooted in the 2030 Agenda. During the 2022 International Migration Review Forum, Member States committed to strengthen linkages between GCM and SDG reporting, explicitly referencing progress, challenges and gaps. This is reflected in the IMRF Progress Declaration in 2022, specifically in paragraph 75³.
- GCM regional reviews (typically through regional meetings) and voluntary national GCM reviews are presented at the IMRF and can be informed by, as well as feed into, voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda.
- Section II of the Guidance for Implementing the GCM, which focuses on laying the foundations for GCM implementation, sets out that the GCM's 360-degree vision, 10 guiding principles, and 23 objectives can collectively help leverage safe, orderly and regular migration towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda (including VNRs, VSRs and VLRs) present an opportunity to assess and report on the interlinkage between safe, orderly and regular migration and sustainable development and to demonstrate how safe, orderly and regular migration can impact the achievement of the SDGs⁴. They can also help identify areas where migrants are being (or are at risk of being) left behind and identifying strategies to address this situation. Paragraph 74g) of the 2030 Agenda emphasises that 2030 Agenda follow-up and review processes should be informed by data, including disaggregated by migration status.
- Integrating the GCM into voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity to holistically consider how safe, orderly and regular migration can impact and be impacted by sustainable development, thus propelling progress towards effectively realizing both agendas.
- Reflecting the GCM in SDG prioritization and planning processes, including through explicitly making connections between safe, orderly and regular migration and the 2030 Agenda, sets the scene for follow-up through VNRs, VLRs and VSRs.

3. "We commit to strengthening the linkages between the Global Compact, the 2030 Agenda and their review forums and to giving due consideration to the progress, challenges and gaps in implementing the Global Compact in the elaboration of our voluntary reviews of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate (...)" – IMRF Progress Declaration, para. 75

4. Leveraging Human Mobility to Rescue the 2030 Agenda: IOM Flagship report for the SDG Summit (2023) <https://publications.iom.int/books/leveraging-human-mobility-rescue-2030-agenda-iom-flagship-report-sdg-summit>

How has human mobility been reflected in past voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda?

- In recent years, safe, orderly and regular migration and its connections to the 2030 Agenda have been integrated in a more comprehensive fashion in voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda. For example, in 2023, all 39 VNRs referenced safe, orderly and regular migration in connection to at least one SDG, compared to 31 out of 41 in the previous year. For VLRs and VSRs, slightly more than half mention safe, orderly and regular migration in connection with at least one SDG.
- In VNRs, the SDGs most commonly referenced in connection with safe, orderly and regular migration are SDG 10 (reducing inequalities) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). However, other than SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and SDG 14 (life below water), all other SDGs were mentioned in connection with safe, orderly and regular migration in at least one VNR.
- Please see below some useful examples and good practices on how different countries have successfully integrated safe, orderly and regular migration and the GCM into their VNRs.

SDGs

Examples from 2023 VNRs



Link to target 10.7, facilitating orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people. Chile, Iceland, Lithuania, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Vietnam reference migration policy initiatives or action plans.

Fiji, Iceland and Timor Leste connect SDG 10 with remittances, including leveraging remittances to reduce inequalities.

Some countries, such as Canada, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Croatia indicate that those facing vulnerabilities in migration, such as victims of trafficking in persons or unaccompanied migrant children, can experience heightened inequalities.



VNRs frequently connect SDG16 to trafficking in persons, including measures to address it. Examples include Liechtenstein, Mongolia, United Republic of Tanzania, Romania. Others, such as Lithuania, note that an increase in trafficking and irregular migration has affected SDG 16 progress.

Ireland and Poland refer to the need for inclusive approaches to legal aid, and/or the need for all to be free from violence, irrespective of migration status.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Timor-Leste, Iceland, Chile, Canada and Bahrain reference measures to protect labour rights, and to promote safe working environments for all (including migrant workers).

Kuwait and others refer to the need to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking. Liechtenstein also mentions its anti-trafficking initiatives, as does Barbados.

Tajikistan notes the importance of reducing the negative impact of emigration on families that remain at home and Bosnia and Herzegovina indicates the need to address skills gaps, guided by the principles of the Global Compact for Migration.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Bosnia and Herzegovina references its commitment to the GCM and to cooperate on international migration “in all its dimensions”. Chile also mentions the GCM and explains the importance of cross-border coordination to address migration challenges.

Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Timor-Leste and Rwanda, for example, refer to diaspora and remittances in connection with SDG 17.

1 NO POVERTY



Vietnam outlines its policies to ensure migrant workers and their families can access basic services, including children from migrant families.

The European Union indicates that challenges of the social inclusion of minorities and migrants, as well as out-migration, are linked to poverty. Portugal indicates that immigrants are among those particularly vulnerable to poverty.



The EU, Ireland and the Maldives recognise migrants as among those at greatest risk of being left behind.

Portugal highlights the importance of ensuring that data is disaggregated by migration-related variables, in the context of leaving no one behind.

Examples from 2023 VLRs and VSRs

Helsinki VLR

The Helsinki VLR is among the VLRs and VSRs with the most detailed reference to human mobility in 2023. It considers connections between employment and labour shortages, employment profiles and immigration. There is also discussion around integration and “segregation” of populations, as well as inequalities and wellbeing, connected with migration.

Vantaa VLR

Vantaa’s VLR refers to population growth, including as a result of immigration. It also emphasises the importance of expertise, including through employment opportunities for foreign workers, based on skills profiles.

Comoros VSR

In Comoros’ VSR there is reference to migrants and diaspora, including leveraging diaspora resources and engagement with migrant associations.

Kenya VSR

Kenya’s VSR mentions rapid population growth in urban areas and waste management challenges (and good practices) linked to rural urban migration and implications for urban planning, including in connection with SDG 11.

How can safe, orderly and regular migration and the GCM effectively be integrated into voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda?

Start by outlining how safe, orderly and regular migration connects to the SDGs in your context and the documentation that is available to support this⁵.

While the central reference to migration in the 2030 Agenda is target 10.7 under the goal “reducing inequality in and among countries”, safe, orderly and regular migration is cross-cutting, with relevance across the SDGs, as well as the principle of leaving no one behind.

Use the following questions to start your thinking:

- Are migrants and communities being left behind or at risk of being left behind?
- In what ways do migrants and their families contribute to sustainable development?
- How are migrants and their families affected by SDG progress and/or constraints?
- What are the safe, orderly and regular migration dimensions of critical themes, such as the Six Transitions to Deliver the SDGs⁶: (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- Which governance spheres would you emphasize as critical to make progress on the safe, orderly and regular migration dimensions of these critical themes?

Consider the following:

- The Global Compact for Migration serves Member States and other stakeholders as a roadmap for implementing the safe, orderly and regular migration dimensions of the SDGs and is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda.
- Consider building the key outcomes of voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda into GCM implementation plans.
- Leverage GCM regional and national voluntary reviews during voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda.
- Where possible, work through national migration-coordination structures and/or country-level UN Migration Networks, if established.

5. See resources at the end of this section for additional guidance.

6. [Six transitions: Investment pathways to deliver the SDGs](#)

Guidance for participating in the preparation of the review (also refer to Annex 1 of the [Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs - 2024](#))

While the guidance below is specific to VNRs, many of the actions under items 1, 2, 3 and 5 will also be relevant for engaging in VSRs and VLRs.

| Item | Actions to ensure the GCM is included in Voluntary Reviews of the 2030 Agenda |
|--|--|
| 1. Initial preparation and organization | <p>Find out which institution and team is coordinating and drafting the review and engage with them about safe, orderly and regular migration considerations. Remain attentive, as processes can start at any moment during the year.</p> <p>Be informed about the scope of the review, any priority SDGs, and the “key messages and storyline” behind the review. Use this as a basis for establishing relevant and focused safe, orderly and regular migration connections.</p> <p>Advocate for the inclusion of relevant migration-related actors in stakeholder mapping, such as LRGs, CSOs, migrant populations including the diaspora, researchers, among others. These may be similar to those engaged for GCM voluntary reports and reviews processes.</p> <p>Ask in which way the review drafting team would like you to contribute (i.e. through meetings, through your own report, by sending best practices) to ensure you can contribute as meaningfully as possible.</p> <p>Identify relevant information, data and documentation on safe, orderly and regular migration to contribute to the review. This should include reports from voluntary reviews of GCM implementation, where available.</p> |
| 2. Stakeholder engagement | <p>In your interactions with the voluntary review drafting team, ask about how they intend to engage with stakeholders and advocate for the inclusion of migration-related actors, including those that are marginalized or at greatest risk of being left behind.</p> <p>Organize or participate in stakeholder-engagement events (such as consultations or workshops) in the different stages of your review and let your partners know about them.</p> |

3. VNR preparation

Provide input during review and drafting of the voluntary review report, clarifying connections with safe, orderly and regular migration and the GCM and suggesting their inclusion in relevant sections, if missing.

Ensure that migration-related references are meaningful and that their connections to the overall logic of the review are clearly articulated and supported with available evidence, where available.

When reviewing full drafts of the voluntary review, provide any additional information on safe, orderly and regular migration that was not included earlier in the process or that might support additional analysis or emerging themes.

Continue to advocate for safe, orderly and regular migration-related issues and stakeholders to be included in the review process.

4. HLPF presentation

Contribute to the development of key messages and advocate for the inclusion of safe, orderly and regular migration in these, especially where there are transformative examples connected to migration that could be showcased.

Advocate for the inclusion of safe, orderly and regular migration key messages in the review presentation event and dissemination campaign.

Consider side-events at the HLPF that could have a safe, orderly and regular migration focus, and lead and support preparation for/ engagement in these⁷.

5. Follow-up to the VNR

Remain engaged in post-HLPF voluntary review actions, including ensuring that the findings are disseminated to migration-related stakeholders. This could be done through national migration-coordination structures, country-level UN Network on Migration -if established, or events at other international forums.

Submit any good practices on including the GCM into the VNR to the Migration Network Hub.

Contribute to any action plan/ roadmap, following up on the recommendations of the VNR, ensuring that human mobility considerations are reflected and commitments are fulfilled, leveraging GCM implementation plans, where possible.

7. [2023 Guidelines for side events \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/2023-guidelines-for-side-events)

Useful resources:

- [HLPF website](#): Website with an overview of VNRs and relevant resources, as well as links to past VNRs carried out by Member States.
- [Handbook for the preparation of VNRs, UNDESA \(2024\)](#): Handbook with guidance for governments on how to prepare for VNRs, including detailed guidance on each of the stages.
- [Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews, published by UCLG and UN-Habitat: First volume \(2020\)](#) on a general approach, and [second volume \(2021\)](#) on exploring the local-national link. The VLR Series aims to provide national, local and regional governments as well as communities with cutting-edge knowledge and best practices on SDG monitoring and reporting along with opportunities for exchange, peer learning and international engagement.
- [Integrating Migration into Common Country Analyses and Cooperation Frameworks: training for UN Country Teams, UN Network on Migration \(2023\)](#): This training sets out measures for UN Country Teams to systematically integrate migration into United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analysis, including topics on entry points, stakeholder engagement, migration-related data.
- [M4D.net](#): This is a global hub on migration and sustainable development, bringing together practitioners and policy makers from around the world to exchange ideas, develop skills and consolidate partnership to harness the development potential of migration and to contribute towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the GCM. M4D.net also provides guidance on the connections between the GCM and the 2030 Agenda.
- [Booklet accompanying Guidance for Governments on the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(2023\)](#): The booklet accompanying this Guidance provides detailed additional guidance on the connections between the GCM objectives and the SDGs.
- [Leveraging Human Mobility to Rescue the 2030 Agenda: IOM Flagship Report for the SDG Summit \(2023\)](#): The report showcases how, with the right action, human mobility can help achieve the SDGs, and support development beyond 2030. It presents related evidence under six “Acceleration Actions”, examples of successful initiatives, and recommendations on how to move forward.
- [Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews: Operational Common Approach Guidance Note, UN System \(2022\)](#): This Handbook, also available in French and Spanish, provides guidance on how to integrate human rights and rights-based approaches in the development of the VNRs.



CHECKLIST

- Take stock of the existing mechanisms, tracking progress on other international agreements (for example, VNRs, UPR and treaty body reporting) into which GCM-related reporting processes can feed.

- Identify opportunities to leverage synergies across the various reporting mechanisms.

- Consult the Network's suggested guidance on the regional reviews. Draft inputs based on national capacity, including potentially a report.

- Collaborate, engage and partner with the Network, Regional Economic Commissions and all other relevant stakeholders to co-create, facilitate and participate in regional reviews.

- Chart out a clear path for your country's contribution to and participation in the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), building on lessons learned and experience in developing inputs for the regional reviews.

