



Draft Terms of Reference for the UN Migration Network for Guinea Bissau

Mission Statement

The UN Resident Coordinator and IOM establish a country based United Nations Network on Migration for Guinea Bissau (The Network) to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN system-wide support to Guinea Bissau Member State 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 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 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 West and Central Africa regional Network on Migration as well as with the global UN Networks on Migration.

In line with global and regional efforts, the 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 national level.

Objectives of the Network

In order to implement its mission, the Network commits to taking concrete actions, as follows:

- Share regular updates on key/ emerging migration issues with members of the Network; and share relevant data, documents, studies and practical information in order to foster a holistic understanding of the national context;
- Ensure at the national level in coordination with the Regional UN Migration Network, effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Guinea Bissau in its 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 at a national level;
- Support coherent action by the UN system at country level in support of GCM implementation, in line with the regional and 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, 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 country level ;
- Ensure 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 UN Charter, international law, and the mandates and technical expertise of relevant UN system entities.
- Contribute and support regional initiatives including those emanating from the Regional UN Network as well as from regional grouping such as ECOWAS and Regional Consultative Processes when relevant for the implementation of the GCM in the region and in the country;
- Provide support at the country 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 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 to the Regional UN Network on Migration on progress made and activities related to the GCM.

Membership and Composition

The Network will be comprised of all UN agencies that are part of the UNCT.

Organizational arrangements

- The Network will meet in Bissau;
- The Network will meet as needed and as a general rule every two months;
- The Network will be co-chaired by the UNDP/UNICEF and IOM Chief of Mission (IOM having been designated by the UN Secretary General as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration);

The **co-chairs** of the Network will:

- Coordinate country based activities with the Regional UN Network on Migration Chairs and Executive Committee
- Deliver joint statement in the name of the Network on specific issues at the request of its membership and after clearance on the content of the intervention by the Executive Committee;
- Brief the UN system, Member States and other stakeholders on the activities of the Network;
- Convene and chair meetings to ensure the smooth functioning of the Network;
- Facilitate regular interaction between the members of the Network ;
- Facilitate engagement 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 Network will contribute to the design and implementation of the 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 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 working group 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 Network will be undertaken by the Resident Coordinator Secretariat with support from IOM on substantive issues.

Reporting

The Network will report back to the Regional UN Migration Network on its activities and on progress made at country level in the implementation of the GCM.